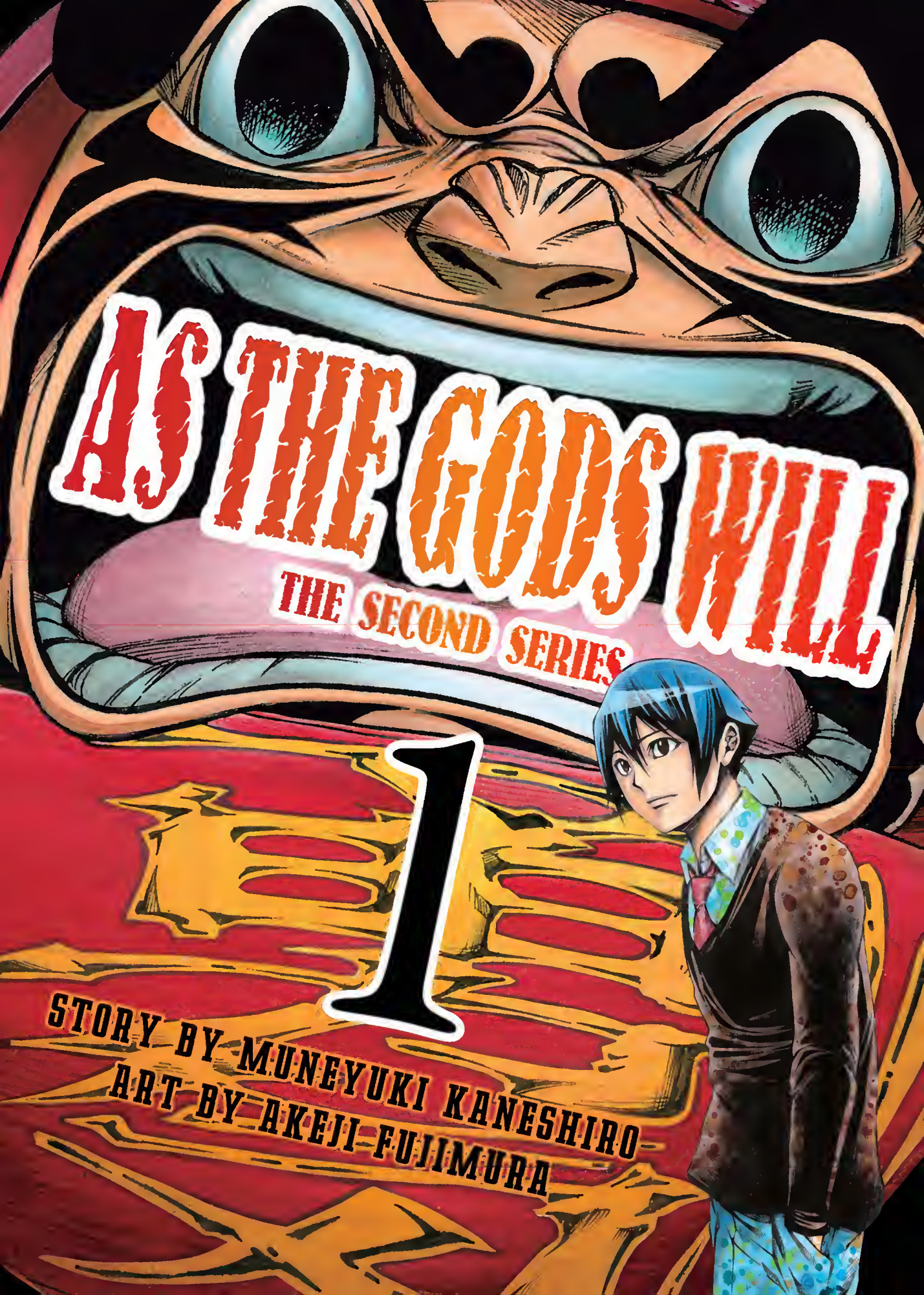

AS THE GODS WILL
THE SECOND SERIES
1
STORY BY MUNEYUKI KANESHIRO
ART BY AKEJI FUJIMURA

There are only two kinds of high school
students in this world.
The ones who went to school today
and those who did not.
The shooting stars pour down
for both of them alike,
and as compensation for that radiance,
they will impose twice as much darkness.
Gamble your future, as the gods will.

—Acid Mana, “Chosen Child”

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PENALTY KICK!
SSHHH
THUD
TWEEEET!!
I'LL TAKE US TO NATION-ALS.
HUH ...?
LEAVE IT TO ME.
SSHHH
I'LL BE A HERO !!



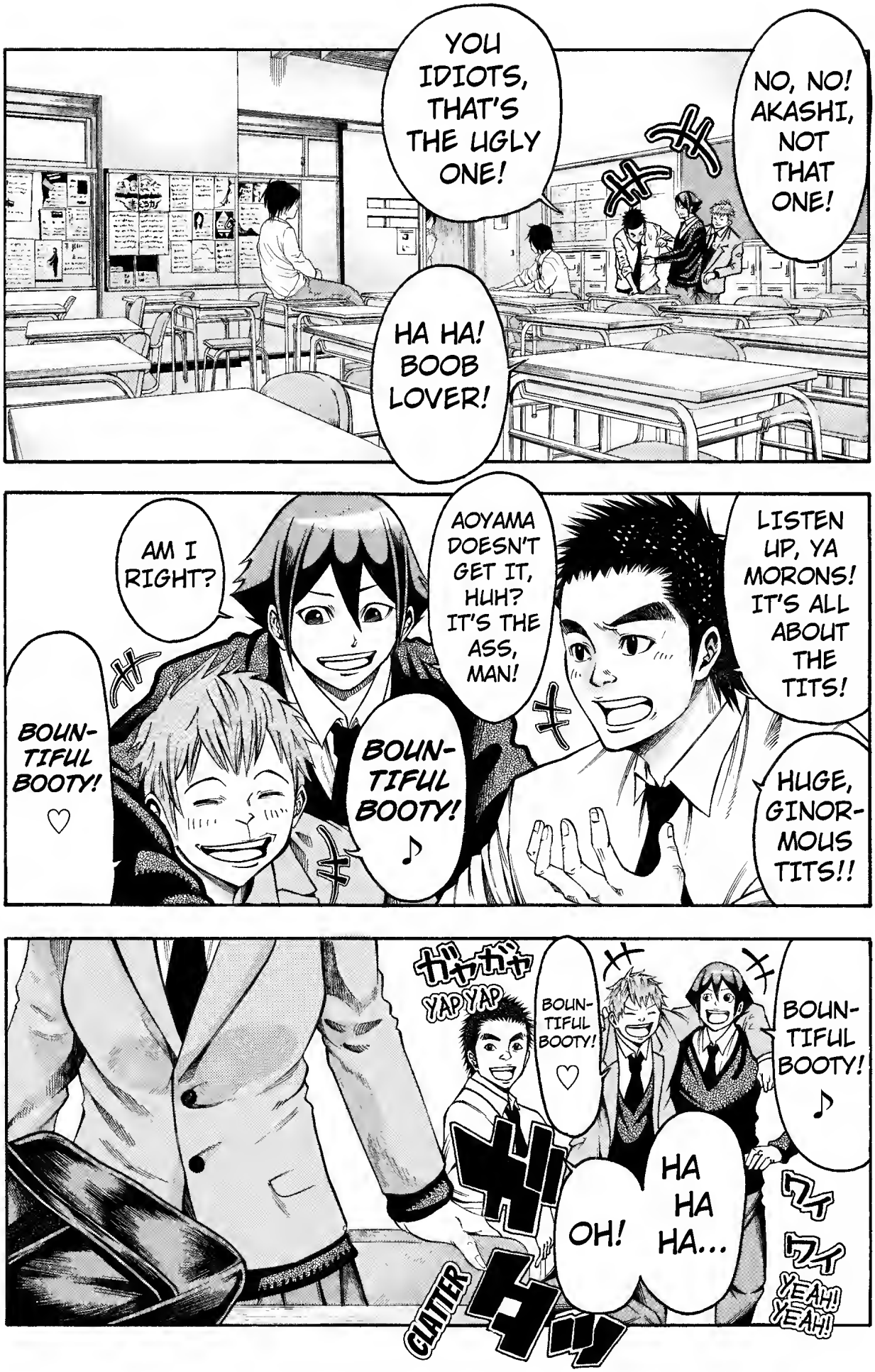
CHAPTER 1: BEEF OR CHICKEN




GRAB
'MORNING, CHRIS! DID YA SEE THE SHOOTING STARS THIS MORNING?
HEY! YOU'RE HEAVY ...!
LET ME GO!!
AS ALWAYS, TODAY...
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
CRAMMED IN THE TRAIN AGAIN! THIS SUCKS!
WOULD START LIKE ANY OTHER DAY...
WHAAA...
SO-TOTALLY-LATE DASH!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
AND END LIKE ANY OTHER DAY...


OR
THAT'S
HOW IT
SHOULD
HAVE
BEEN.


THREE! TWO! ONE!
TA-DAA!! JUST BARE GIRL
ーン!!
TA-DAA! WHA- NO, NO! THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
WEAR 'EM SO LOW IT'S SINFUL!♡
HEY! YOU GUYS CHOSE THE SAME ONE! HA HAAAA!!


NO, NO! AKASHI, NOT THAT ONE!
YOU IDIOTS, THAT'S THE UGLY ONE!
HA HA! BOOB LOVER!
LISTEN UP, YA MORONS! IT'S ALL ABOUT THE TITS!
AOYAMA DOESN'T GET IT, HUH? IT'S THE ASS, MAN!
AM I RIGHT?
HUGE, GINORMOUS TITS!!
BOUNTIFUL BOOTY! ♪
BOUNTIFUL BOOTY! ♡
ガヤガヤ YAP YAP
BOUNTIFUL BOOTY! ♡
BOUNTIFUL BOOTY! ♪
ワイ ワイ YEAH! YEAH!
HA HA HA...
OH!
CLATTER ガッ


YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, TAKA-HASHI !!
OH... 'MORN-ING... WHAT'S UP?
PLEASE GIVE US A GIRL'S OPIN-ION!
THESE TWO SAY IT'S ALL ABOUT A GIRL'S ASS, BUT USUALLY IT'S THE BOOBS, RIGHT?
...
WHO ...
CARES ABOUT CRAP LIKE THAT?
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU GUYS TO BE FOOLING AROUND AT THIS POINT IN YOUR 3RD YEAR?
THE LAST TOURNA-MENT'S ALREADY OVER...
I'M GOING INTO THE FAMILY BUSI-NESS!
WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN? A SCREW FACTORY?
YOU AREN'T THINKING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE AT ALL, HUH?
トン TAP
トン TAP
I ALREADY DECIDED WHAT I'M GONNA DO A LONG TIME AGO!
REALLY, AO-YAMA?
WHAT'S A SOCCER FREAK LIKE YOU GONNA DO?


RIGHT, AKA-SHI?
I'M GONNA GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS HIM AND WE'RE GONNA KEEP PLAYING SOCCER TOGETHER!
SOCCER! WHAT ELSE?!
OOOF!

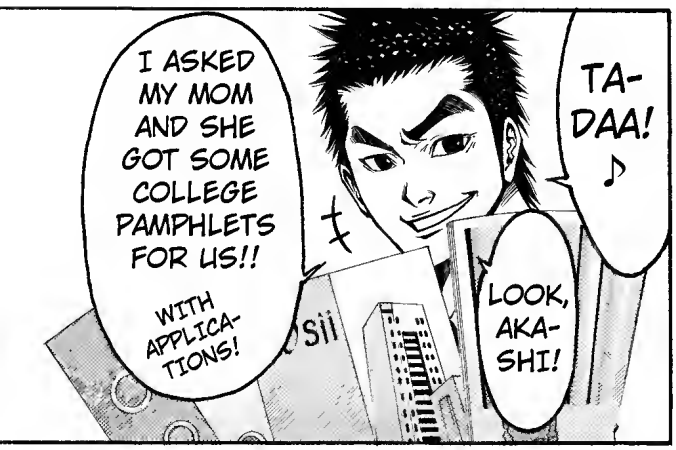

HUH...? OH....
UH ... YEAH ...


GAMING TIME!
THERE'S ONE MORE THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU.
OH, HANG ON! HANG ON!
シュッ SHUF
I SEE ...
I'M GLAD YOU GET ALONG SO WELL.


LEVEL WITH ME, WHAT'S YOUR CUP SIZE?
WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE, EX-MANAGER?! SO TELL ME! ♡
HMM-MM...
IF YOU ASK ME, TAKAHASHI'S SELLING POINT IS HER BACK-SIDE...
SO MAYBE B?
BOUNTIFUL BOOTY! ♡


AW, CRAP...
HUH?
I ALMOST FORGOT ...HEH HEH HEH...
THANKS FOR REMINDING ME, TAKAHASHI!!

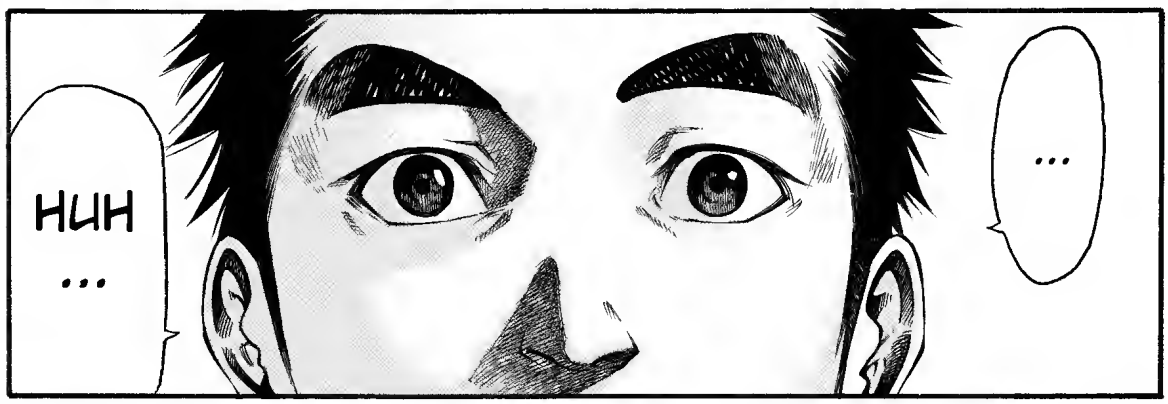

DROP DEAD, YOU JERKS!
ANYWAY, IF YOU'RE GOING TO COLLEGE, HAVE YOU APPLIED ANYWHERE YET?
LOTS OF PLACES HAVE DEADLINES SOON, YOU KNOW.


I ASKED MY MOM AND SHE GOT SOME COLLEGE PAMPHLETS FOR US!!
WITH APPLICATIONS!
TA-DAA! ♪
LOOK, AKASHI!


IF WE WANNA GET MADE REGULARS ASAP, THEN MAYBE HERE...
THEY'RE A BIT WEAK THOUGH ...
IT'S NOTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE, BUT...
THIS PLACE HAS A PRETTY STRONG TEAM, BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF MEMBERS, SO COMPETITION'LL BE FIERCE TO BECOME REGULARS!
...
AGH...
TCH...
KA-CLICK KA-CLICK KA-CLICK
AND THEN!
HERE'S THE PLACE I'D RECOM-MEND!
AWW!
DARN IT! IT GOT IN!
G-G-G-GOOO-OOAL!!
EX-TREME JOHN-NY-O!
OOOH!
THE COACHES ARE GREAT, NO MATTER WHAT!
EXTREME SOCCER FEVER!


ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, IF WE PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY HERE, THEN WE'LL GET INTO A MID-LEVEL J-LEAGUE TEAM...
THEY'LL WANNA SHOW US OFF AND WE'LL BOTH PLAY AS RENTALS ON A J2 TEAM...
THEN!
WE'LL BE THE LEADERS FOR PROMOTION TO J1 THAT YEAR! THEY'LL ALL BE SAYING HOW THE "GENIUS DUO" HAS EXPLODED!
TURN
ARGH! I'M OUTTA TIME!
MESSI!! MESSI!! MESSI!!
KA-CHICK
ガチャ
LET ME PLAY NEXT ...
HEY!
おいっ
HEY! LISTEN UP, AKA-SHI!
I'M TALKING ABOUT OUR BRIGHT FUTURES HERE!
ガチャ
CHICK
UH ...
YEAH ...
THEN WE'LL GET OFFERS FROM OVER-SEAS...
THAT'S RIGHT...
MAYBE REAL MADRID SOME-DAY?
WELL, MAN-CHESTER CITY'D WORK TOO, HUH?
OH, UH...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
HUH ... WHAT ?


THAT I'M ...
NOT GONNA PLAY SOCCER.


...
HUH ...


TW-TW-TWEET!
THAT'S THE FINAL WHISTLE!
DARN, I LOST!
WHATCHA TALKIN' ABOUT? ARE YA KIDDING?
WHAT ARE YA GONNA DO IF YOU QUIT?
HEY!
LOOK FOR A JOB? YOU?




WELL, YOU KNOW, I'LL STILL GO TO COLLEGE AND ALL ...
JOIN SOME CLUB AND GET A GIRLFRIEND, THEN FOOL AROUND AS MUCH AS I WANT EVERY DAY!
IF I STILL WANNA PLAY SOCCER, I'LL JOIN A CLUB.


SCHOOL CLUBS... THAT'D BE NICE!
YEAH!!
I KNOW, RIGHT ?!
I WANNA GO TO COLLEGE TOO...
IT'D BE NICE EVEN IF IT WASN'T SOCCER.

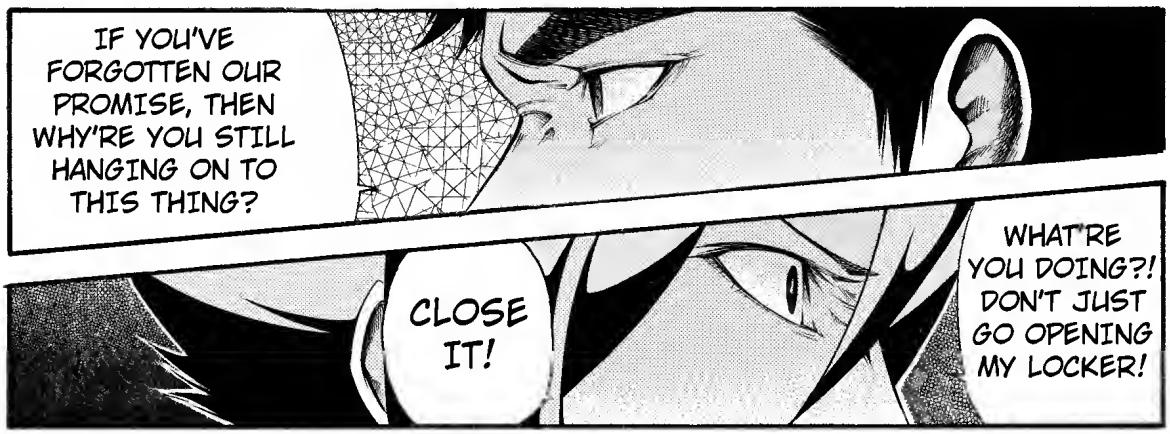

...HUH? WHAT IS IT, AO-YAMA?
WHAT'S WRONG, ALL OF A SUDDEN ...?


WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?
DON'T MESS WITH ME, MAN...


...ARE YOU BEING SERI-OUS?
HUH? YEAH ...


DIDN'T WE PROMISE TO BECOME THE BEST PLAYERS IN THE WORLD TOGETHER ?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT OUR DREAM?
?
HEY, C'MON! HOW LONG AGO DID WE MAKE THAT PROMISE ?
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
I GUESS MY PASSION FOR THE GAME JUST COOLED OFF, SIMPLE AS THAT.
COOLED OFF? DON'T GIVE ME THAT.
THEN WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ?!
CLANK
カッ チャ
CREAK
キィッ
…


I'LL BE THE BEST PASSER IN THE WORLD.
AKASHI
I'LL BE THE BEST STRIKER IN THE WORLD.
AOYAMA


IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN OUR PROMISE, THEN WHY'RE YOU STILL HANGING ON TO THIS THING?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?! DON'T JUST GO OPENING MY LOCKER!
CLOSE IT!


DON'T CHANGE THE SUB-JECT!
YOU STILL WANT TO PLAY SOCCER, RIGHT?
I'M TELL-ING YOU TO CLOSE IT...
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE IT A MEM-ORY?!
ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?!


YOU CHICK-EN!


AKASHI... DON'T BECOME A COWARDLY CHICKEN THAT'S ENSLAVED BY PAST FAILURES AND CAN'T MOVE FORWARD! BE A COURAGEOUS BULL THAT CHARGES INTO THE FUTURE!
ARE YOU BEEF OR CHICKEN?


...
WAIT... WHAT?

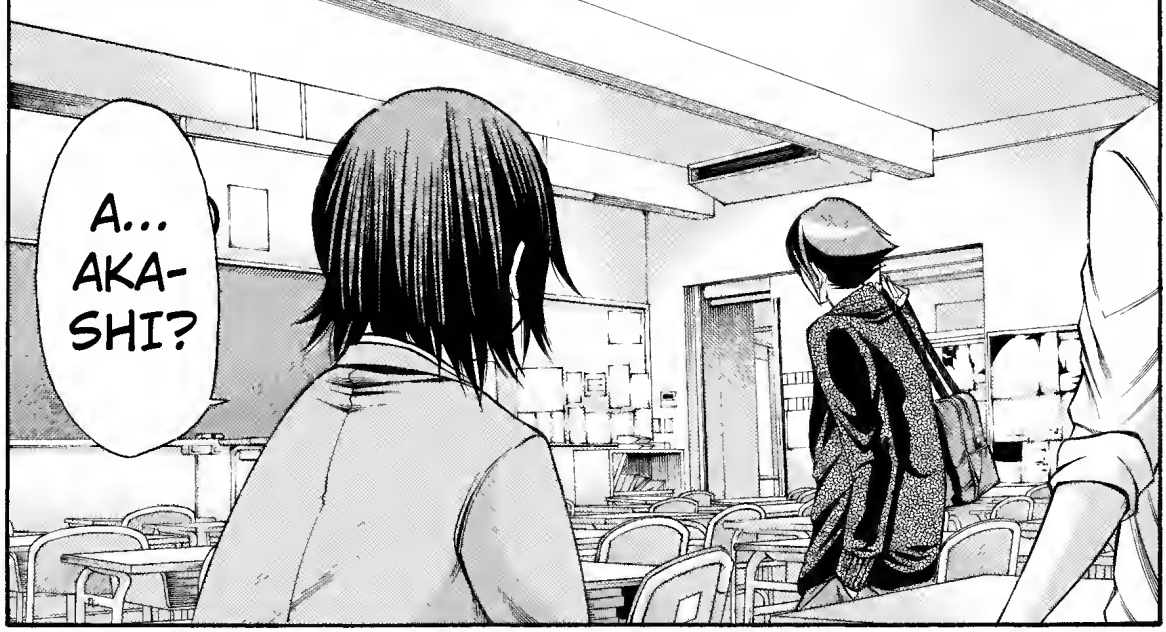

YOU'VE GOT THE NERVE TO GO ON RANTING LIKE THAT?
ALL OF MY PAST FAILURES WERE YOUR FAULT, REMEMBER?
HUH?


IF YOU HADN'T MISSED THAT KICK BACK THEN, WE WOULD HAVE GONE TO THE NATION-ALS!
BY THE WAY, BEEF IS JUST A PIECE OF MEAT, YOU IDIOT! A BULL IS STILL A COW!
YOU ...!


HUH?! THIS FROM THE GUY WHO SCREWED UP IN THE FIRST PLACE!
YOU'RE GONNA SAY IT'S ALL MY FAULT?!!
GRAB
HEY! CUT IT OUT, AOYAMA!


IF WE'D GONE TO NATIONALS, THEN MAYBE WE WOULD HAVE CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF A FAMOUS SCHOOL OR PRO SCOUT!
BEST IN THE WORLD, HUH?!
BUT THAT'S ALL OVER FOR US NOW!
GRAB
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BE THAT?! WHEN YOU'RE JUST SITTING AROUND IN YOUR 3RD YEAR LOOKING AT PIN-UPS, ARGUING ABOUT TITS OR ASSES?!
YOU IDIOT!!
LOOK AT REALITY, YOU STUPID COW!
THAT'S THE END!


MY LIFE AS A SOCCER PLAYER IS OVER.
IT'S ALL OVER.


A... AKA-SHI?


HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING, AKASHI?
GRAB
I'M GOIN' HOME.


WAIT!! I DON'T UNDER-STAND ANY OF THIS "BEEF" STUFF...
BUT YOU KNOW HE'S BEEN PRACTICING LIKE MAD, RIGHT?
AND BESIDES, HE WAS KICKING IN YOUR PLACE BACK THEN BECAUSE YOU WERE INJURED...
DOESN'T MATTER. LET GO OF ME.


OH... IT'S AKASHI. HE'S...
WELL, NOW! WHAT'S WRONG, TAKA-HASHI?
NO...
IT'S NOTHING. I'LL GO BACK TO CLASS.
HOME ROOM'S ABOUT TO START.
YOU JERK!!
こいつ...!!
IF YOU'VE GOT TIME TO WORRY ABOUT ME, WHY DON'T YOU GO ON A DIET OR SOME-THING?
WHAT ...!
TUG
HEY, AKA-SHI!
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS?!
SHUP
SHOCK
!
WAIT, AKA-SHI ...
OHH!


STEP
STEP
STEP
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
AH, MAN ...
CLATTER
I GOT ALL WORKED UP AND SAID TOO MUCH...
THE TIME IS UPON US!
PSHHH!!
EVEN WHEN I KNOW HOW HE'S BEEN PRACTICING HIS BUTT OFF...
I KNOW IT WASN'T REALLY HIS FAULT!
BECAUSE BACK THEN, I...
TW-TWEET!


PENALTY KICK!
サーー
SSHHH
GOOD JOB, AKASHI !!
CAN YOU GET UP?
WE GOT A PK!
THANKS.
WE'RE OUTTA TIME. THIS IS THE LAST PLAY ...
I KNOW.
BEEF! YA GOTTA BE BEEF!
IF WE WIN, IT'S THE NATION-ALS!
サーアア
SSHHH...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

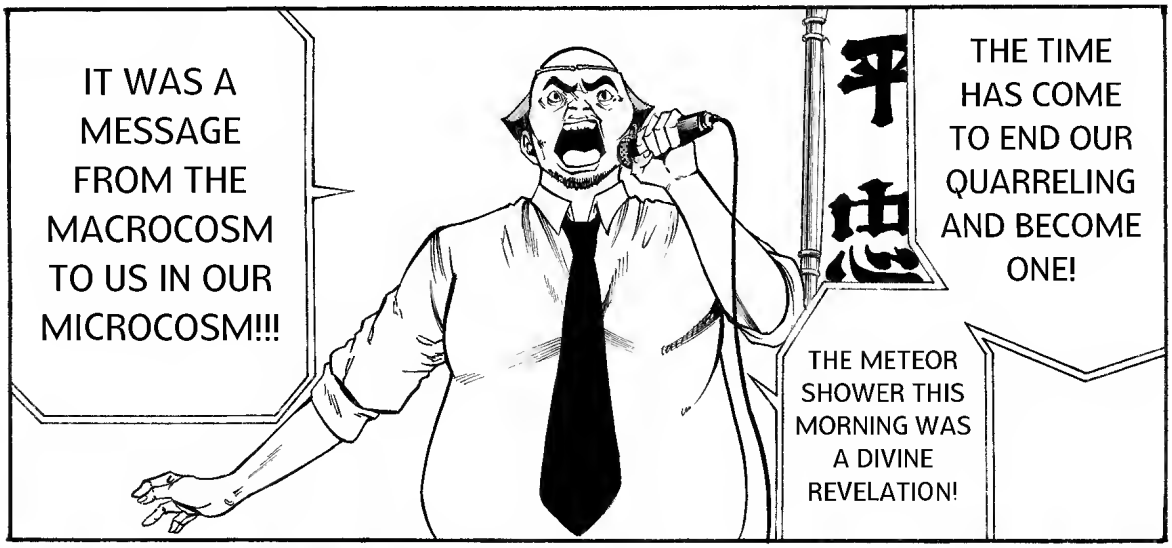

DAMN... THERE'S WAY TOO MUCH PRESSURE!!!
IF I MISS, IT'S ALL OVER... I'VE GOT MY TEAM'S FATE IN MY HANDS...! CAN I DO IT? CAN I NOT DO IT? HEY, I...
WHICH WAY WILL THE GOALKEEPER MOVE? RIGHT? LEFT?
WHAT DO I DO IF HE READS ME?!
I CAN'T AFFORD ANY MISTAKES.
IF I GET THIS, WE TIE. THEN WE CAN WIN IN OVER-TIME.
WIN AND I'M GOING TO NATION-ALS.
I DON'T WANT TO SHOOT!!
I CAN'T SHOOT!!!
サアー
SSHHH
HUFF
...
HUFF
...HEY, AKA-SHI...
SO, YOU... I THOUGHT SO...
HUH...?
播磨生


*SHIRT: "HARIMAO"
播磨生
播磨
YOUR LEG...
HOW BAD IS IT?
HUH?
YOU HURT IT IN THE LAST PLAY, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU'RE LOOKING PALE.
YOU MIGHT HAVE FRACTURED A BONE...
UH... WELL ... MAYBE IT'S ...
MY ANKLE ...
HUH ...
I'LL KICK.
RELAX. I'LL TAKE US TO NATION-ALS!
BUT YOU'RE BAD AT PK'S!


YA DUMMY! LISTEN UP, AKASHI!
CHANCES LIKE THIS COME AROUND ...
TUG
FOR HEROS LIKE ME.
TWEET!!
AND A HERO ...
DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ADVERSITY OR DIFFICULTY, HE JUST BLASTS THAT CHANCE INTO REALITY!


SAVE!!
THUD...
SHI-
YOU
...

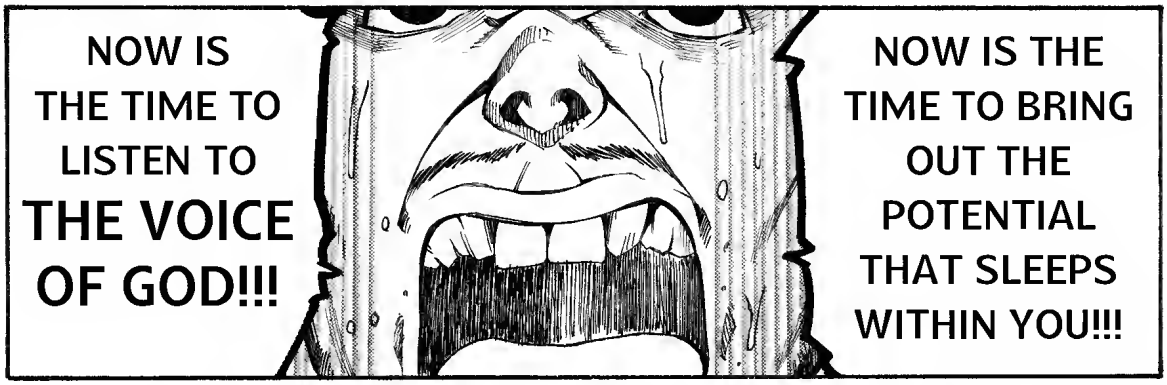


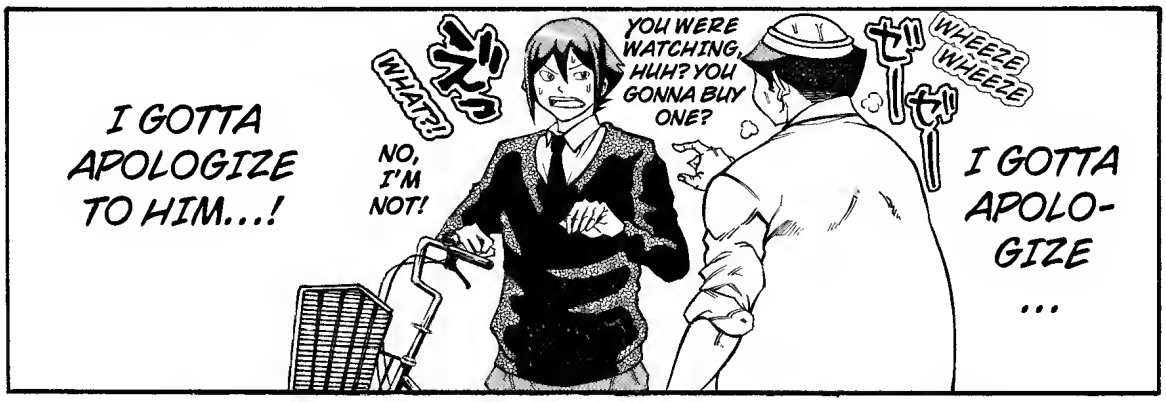


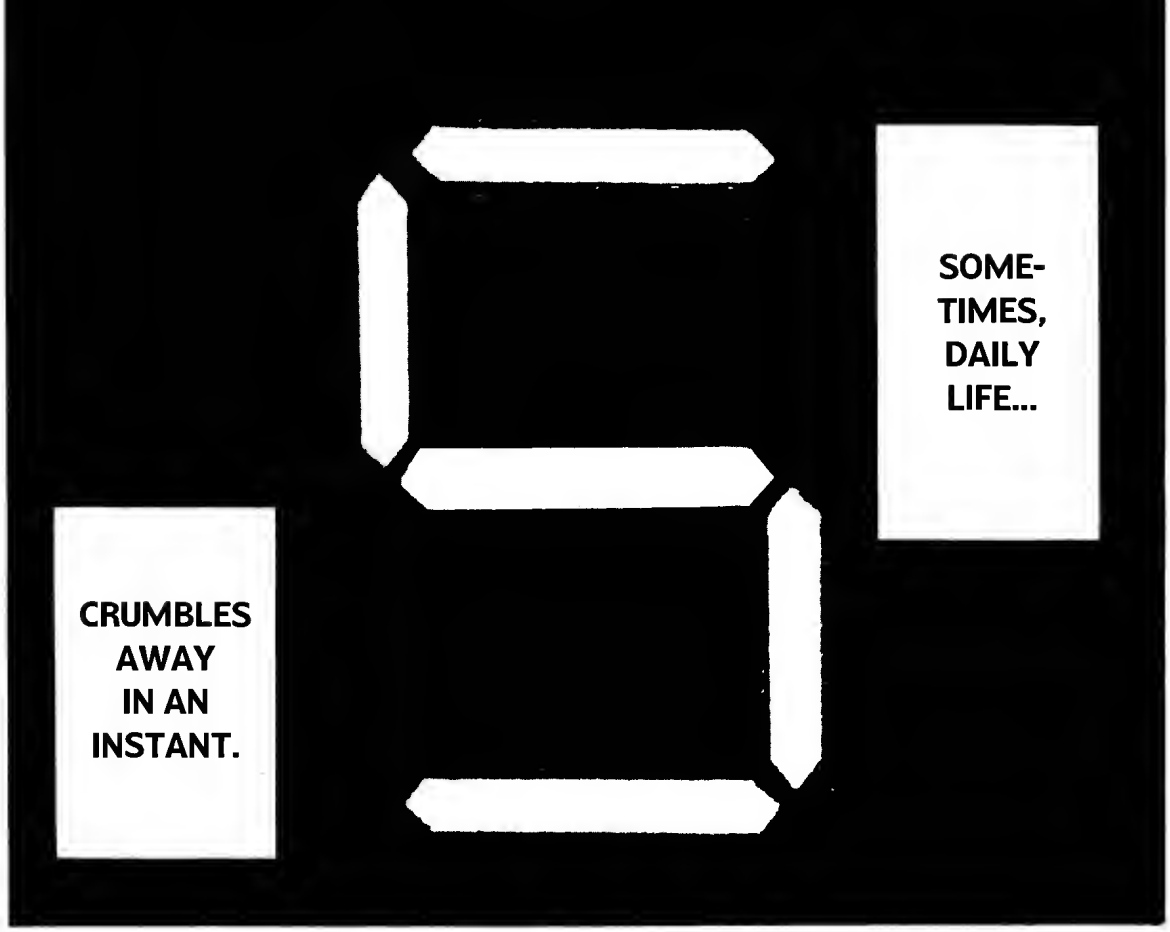
*FLAG: "TADAKATSU OKUHIRA"

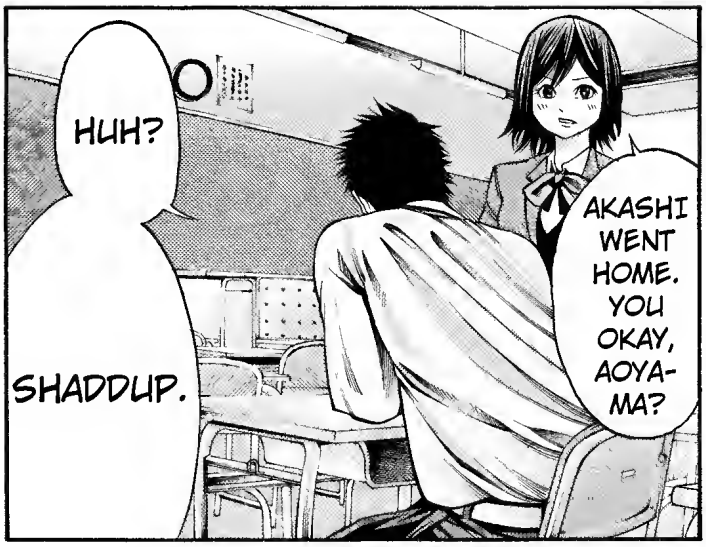


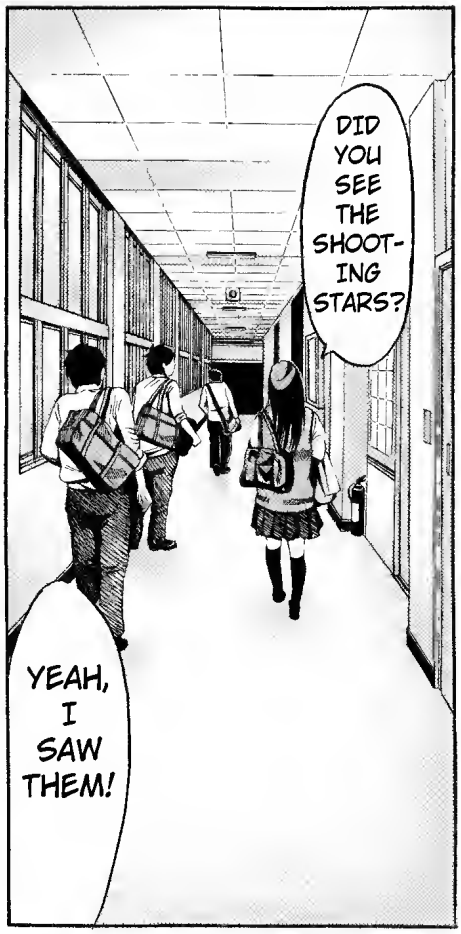

MAN, THAT GUY'S ANNOYING...
IT'S LIKE AOYAMA SAID...
AAAH!!
おおお
I'M A "COWARDLY CHICKEN"...
WAAAH!
わおお
RELEASE THAT POWER WITH THIS "OH MY GOD RING"!!!
WORKS EVEN WHEN WET!! OH MY GOD!
SIMPLY PUT IT ON YOUR ARM! ONLY $129.80!


NOW IS THE TIME TO LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF GOD!!!
NOW IS THE TIME TO BRING OUT THE POTENTIAL THAT SLEEPS WITHIN YOU!!!


I GOTTA APOLOGIZE TO HIM...!
えっ
WHAT?!
NO, I'M NOT!
YOU WERE WATCHING, HUH? YOU GONNA BUY ONE?
ぜぜ
WHEEZE WHEEZE
I GOTTA APOLO-GIZE ...


SOME-
TIMES,
DAILY
LIFE...
CRUMBLES
AWAY
IN AN
INSTANT.


HUH?
SHADDUP.
AKASHI
WENT
HOME.
YOU
OKAY,
AOYA-
MA?


DID
YOU
SEE
THE
SHOOT-
ING
STARS?
YEAH,
I
SAW
THEM!


I
THINK
...
JUST
SHUT UP
AND
LEAVE
ME
ALONE.
BUT
...



4

THE END OF TRANQUILITY ...

IS THE SIGN OF THE BEGIN-NING.




WHY DON'T YOU QUIT BEING STUBBORN AND APOLO-GIZE?
HM...
BEFORE THE WARMTH YOU TWO HAD COOLS OFF.
THE FUTURE IS NOT ONLY WHAT YOU HOPE FOR, BUT ALSO WHAT YOU NEVER EXPECTED.
WHAT ?
WHY DO I GOTTA SAY I'M SORRY, HUH?
HUH ♪
I'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CLUB WITH YOU BOTH FOR 3 YEARS.
I SHOULD AT LEAST KNOW WHAT YOU GUYS ARE THINK-ING.
THE GREAT MANAGER! ♪
C'MON, LET'S GET READY FOR CLASS...
...
TCH
...
WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?
BUT EVEN SO, LIVE ON.



*SHORT FOR "SENSEI"


I'LL JUST HAVE TO APOLOGIZE. THAT'S ALL...
DAMN. NO CHOICE, HUH?
ALL THIS, JUST BECAUSE HE SAID HE WANTED TO QUIT...
TCH ...
TAP
T-TAP


TO: AKASHI
MAYBE BACKSIDES AREN'T BAD EITHER. SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED YOU A CHICKEN. NOW GET BACK TO SCHOOL ALREADY.
TAP.

1

SURVIVE.


TANUMA-SEN'S EARLY!
HEY, BALDY'S COMING!
PIPE DOWN AND GET SEATED.


COME BACK, AKASHI ...
I STILL WANNA PLAY SOCCER WITH YOU.


BAM
?!!
…?!
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
…
WHA-
?
AN EXPLO-SION …?
…?


AGH...
ハー!!
HUFF
ハー!!
HUFF
ハア
HUFF
EE
...
TA-
TANU
...
TANU
...
AAA
AAA
AAA
AAH!
WAA
AAA
AAA
AGH!!
THUD
HUH
...?
?!
H-
HEY
...
WHAT
IS IT?
WHAT'S
WRONG?
TANU-
MA-
SEN...
IS...
パカ
STEP






HUH?
STAGGER...
ぐらぁぁ
FWUMP
ア…
FWOOM...


THUNK
コロン…
WOBBLE…
コロン…
WOBBLE…
HUH …?
AH…
*DOLL: "COURAGE"


A DARUMA DOLL...?
SLAM!
!
WOAH! THE DOOR SUDDENLY CLOSED!!
SHOCK
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HUH...? WHAAA-AAAT?!
HEY, WHAT ABOUT TANUMA-SEN...?
UGH!!
HIS HEAD IS...! HE'S DEAD!!
WHAT? REALLY ?
WHA-WHAT IS THIS?
AAAH!!
CLATTER
...
IS THERE A HIDDEN CAMERA OR SOME-THING?


TURN...
TURN...
<3...
<3...
DA
...
勇
TURN...
<3...
TURN...
<3...
HAS
...
H
O
ND
?!
!
RU
...
SA
...
N
...
MA
...
ピク...
FREEZE...


FALLEN.
WHAT ...?
A DARUMA FROM TANUMA-SEN'S NECK?
...
...




IT TALKED AND TURNED AROUND?
...
REALLY ...?
DID IT SAY SOME-THING JUST NOW?
...?
WHAT IS THIS?


I'LL GO TO THE STAFF ROOM!
OH... CLASS PRES-IDENT ...
TH-THIS IS BAD!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!!


BLAST


SPURT
THUD
PSSHHH...
AH
...
UH
...


AAA AGH !!!
A- A-
WHAT ?!
AAA AAH!
EEK !!


RU ...
DA ...

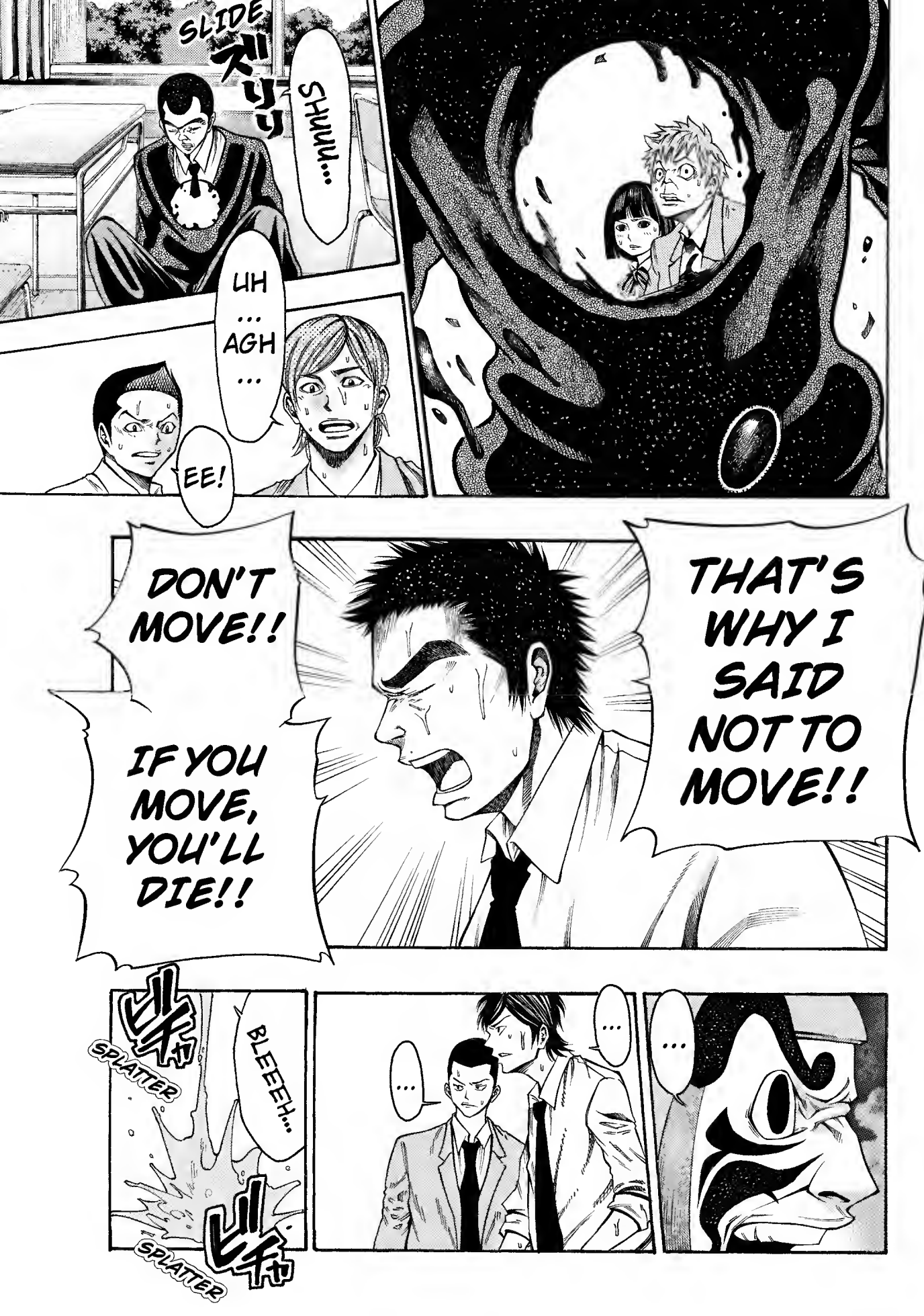

THE CLASS PRESIDENT WAS SHOT? HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HUH?! HUH?! WHAT IS THIS?!


HEY, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE! HURRY!
RUN! RUN!
HUH?! THE DOOR WON'T OPEN!! URGH!
MA...
SA...
MY- MY CELL PHONE'S NOT WORK- ING, EITHER!
WHY AREN'T HE WINDOWS OPEN- ING?!
HUH?
IS THIS FOR REAL?! THEY'RE DEAD! PEOPLE ARE DEAD...!!
WHAT IS THIS...?!
AAAAAH!
キャー
WAAH!
WAAH!
"DARU- MA"...?
COULD THIS BE ...?
HAS...
N...


STOP!!!
NOBODY
MOVE!!!
FALLEN
!!!


FREEZE
...
S...
STOP
...
STOP
...
U-
UM
...
IF THE DOOR AND CELL PHONES WON'T WORK...
WHY DON'T WE BREAK THE WINDOW WITH A CHAIR ...?
RATTLE
AH
...
...


BOOM


SLIDE
쥐릿
SHUUU...
UH ... AGH ...
EE!
THAT'S WHY I SAID NOT TO MOVE!!
DON'T MOVE!!
IF YOU MOVE, YOU'LL DIE!!
...
...
BLEEEH...
SPLATTER
SPLATTER


HUFF
BLEH...
I'M...
UH...
I THREW UP...
HUFF
I'M... SORRY, GUYS.
HUFF


...UH...
HUGH...


WAKA-BAYASHI ...IT'S OKAY. DON'T MOVE...
DON'T WIPE YOUR MOUTH...

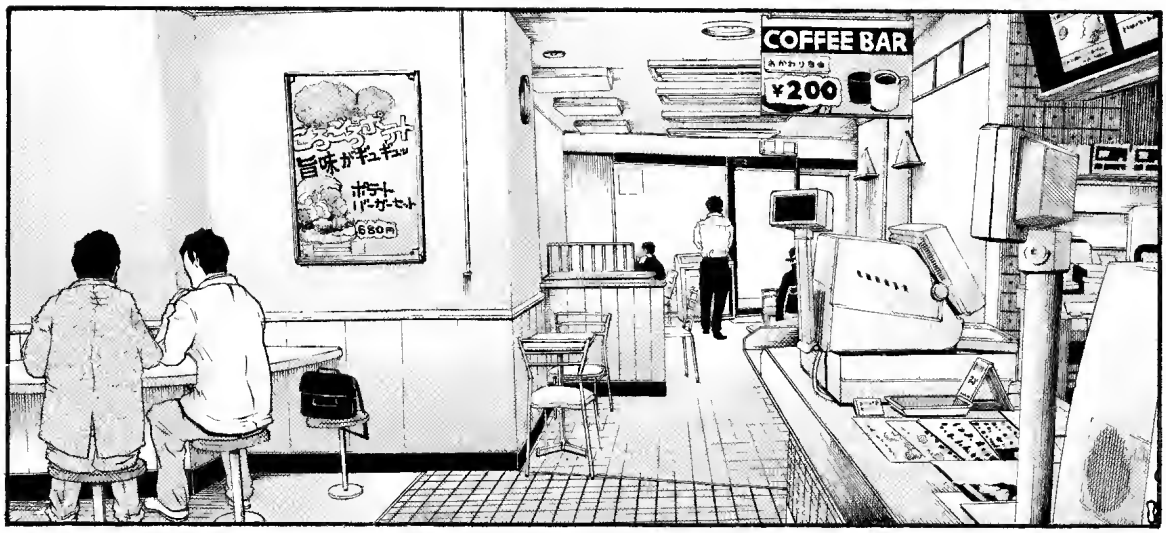

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
DO YA KNOW SOME-THIN'? HUH?!
WHAT IS THAT DARUMA?!!

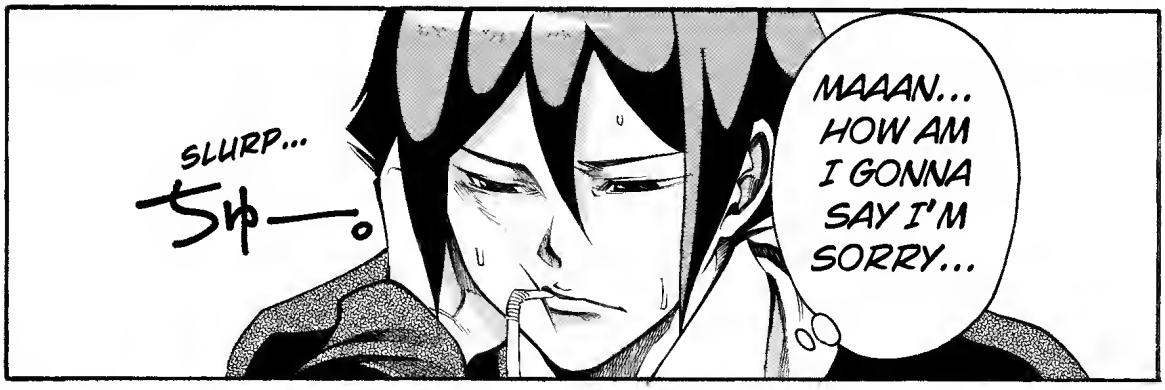

H-HEY, AOYA-MA!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!

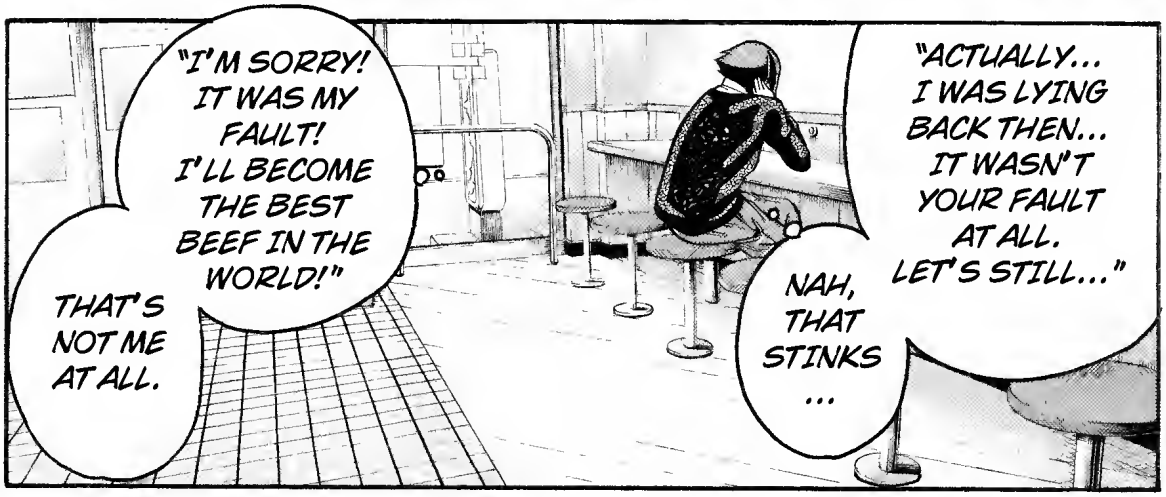

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?! WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER! ANYWAY, DON'T MOVE!
NOT UNTIL THE DARUMA MOVES ...
DA ...
RU ...
MA ...
?!
ARGH !!
WHOOSH
WHAM
SA ...
YOU SUCK!
COME ON, BREAK IT!
IT WON'T! IT WON'T BREAK!
NO WAY ...
AOYA-MA...
!

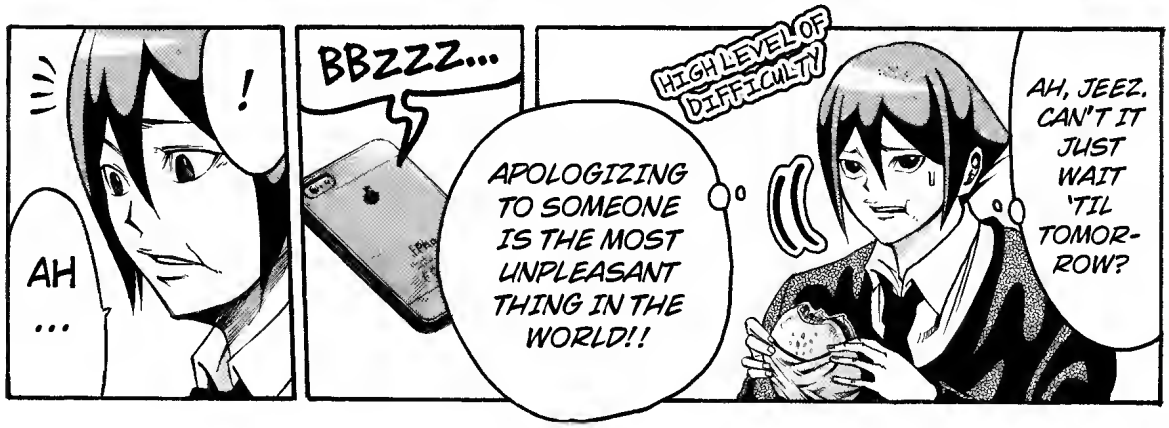

TAKA-HASHI ...!!
CAN WE MOVE NOW?
WILL YOU... HELP ME UP...?
いだだ... OUCH...
I THINK... I'M SCARED STIFF.
OKAY, HANG ON...
N...
DAMN IT...
HAS ...
ピタ
FREEZE
STOP, EVERY-ONE!!
NOW!


...
FALLEN!!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS...?! WHAT'S HAPPENING ?!!


COFFEE BAR
¥200


SLURP...
MAAAN... HOW AM I GONNA SAY I'M SORRY...


"I'M SORRY! IT WAS MY FAULT! I'LL BECOME THE BEST BEEF IN THE WORLD!"
THAT'S NOT ME AT ALL.
"ACTUALLY... I WAS LYING BACK THEN... IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT AT ALL. LET'S STILL..."
NAH, THAT STINKS ...

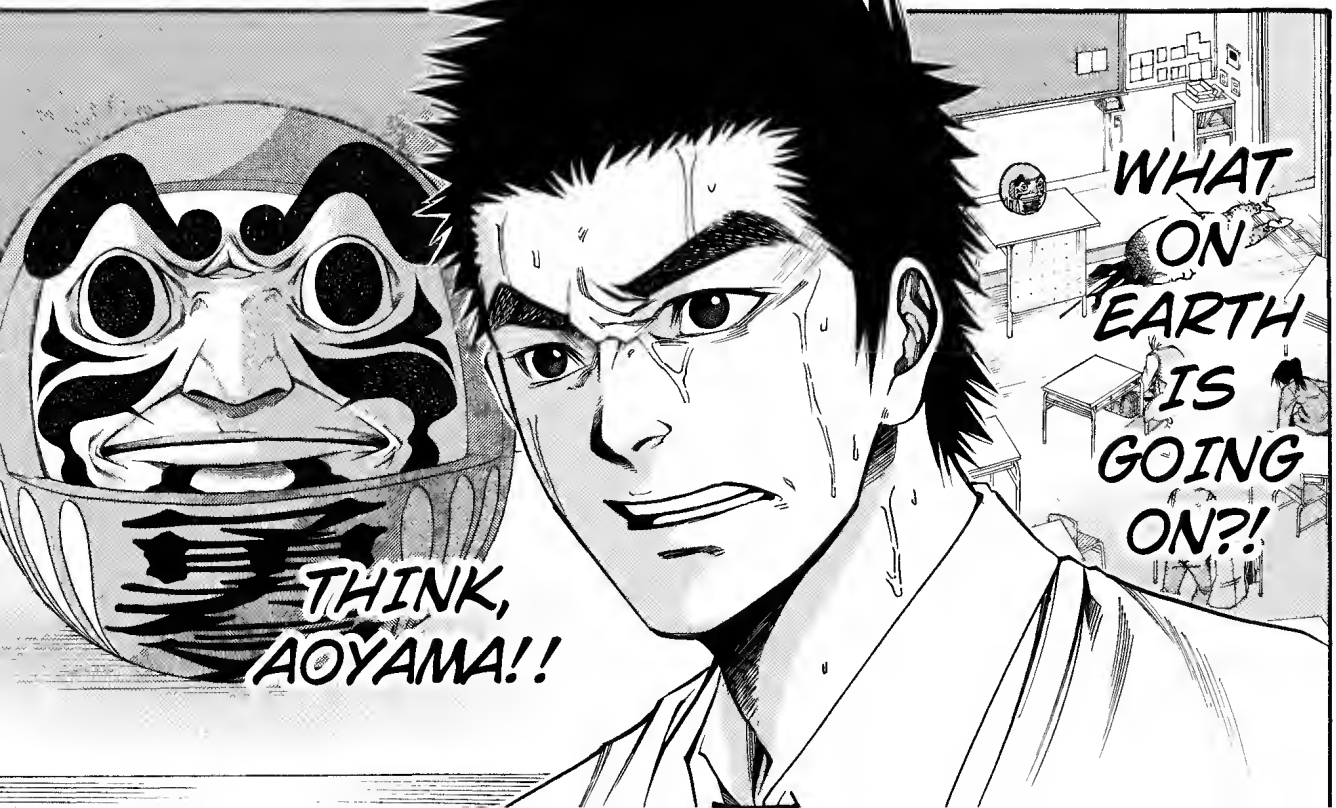

!
AH ...
BBZZZ...
APOLOGIZING TO SOMEONE IS THE MOST UNPLEASANT THING IN THE WORLD!!
HIGH LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY
AH, JEEZ. CAN'T IT JUST WAIT 'TIL TOMOR-ROW?


WHAT IS... HE...
From: AOYAMA
Subject:
MAYBE BACKSIDES AREN'T BAD EITHER.
SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED YOU A CHICKEN.
NOW GET BACK TO SCHOOL ALREADY.
STAND
OKAY !!
WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW AT THE TIME...
...
HE WAS THINKING HE WANTED TO SAY HE'S SORRY, TOO, HUH?
MAN, WHAT A COW LOVER !!
SIGH... はぁ～...


ウィーン
VRRREEN
WiFi
I'LL GO RIGHT BACK TO SCHOOL AND APOLOGIZE!
WAS THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO APOLOGIZE ...
NOT TODAY, NOT TOMORROW, AND NOT THE DAY AFTER THAT...


TANUMA-SENSEI'S HEAD TURNED INTO A DARUMA DOLL...
OKAY, CALM DOWN... THINK IT OVER ONE MORE TIME...
AS THE GODS WILL
THE SECOND SERIES


WERE SHOT DEAD BY SOME KIND OF BEAM...!
SOMETHING STARTED... AND MY CLASSMATES WHO MOVED EVEN A LITTLE...


WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?!
THINK, AOYAMA!!


HUH?


DING DONG!


THE SCHOOL GATE IS CLOSED ... THAT'S WEIRD ...
AND I CAME ALL THE WAY BACK HERE TO ATTEND CLASS, TOO...


I MEAN, ARE THERE EVEN ANY TEACHERS HERE...?
HEY! ANSWER ALREADY! ...WHAT'S GOING ON?
...


AO-YAMA'S CELL PHONE IS OFF...
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED ...
WHAT IS THIS ...
JUST WHEN I CAME ALL THE WAY BACK TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT I SAID...
IF YOU HADN'T MISSED THAT PENALTY KICK BACK THEN ...
WE COULD'VE GONE TO NATIONALS!
GUESS THERE'S NOTHIN' I CAN DO...
I JUST GOTTA KILL SOME TIME AT THE ARCADE 'TIL SCHOOL'S OVER...
KA-BLAM
SPLAT
!
... HM?
AH...



CHAPTER 2: THAT'S ME X 15


SHOOT-ING STARS ...?!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN 'EM DUR-ING THE DAY.
I MEAN, IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN THEM ...
AND THERE ARE SO MANY!!
I WONDER IF THAT ARCADE HAS "WINNING ELEVEN"?


DUN
DUN
UGH ...
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!!
WAH! I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY-MORE!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT DARUMA ...?
EE ...
UH ...


ARE YOU OKAY?
TAKA-HASHI ...!
Y-YEAH.



*A JAPANESE CHILDREN'S GAME SIMILAR TO "RED LIGHT/GREEN LIGHT."


!!
DA
...
GRAB!!
TUG
SORRY... THAT AKASHI ISN'T HERE TO HELP YOU...
HUH?
WHAT DO YA MEAN?
RU
...
HUH? 'CUZ YOU ...
LIKE AKA-SHI, DON'T YOU?
...WHAT?
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT IDEA?!
I MEAN, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!

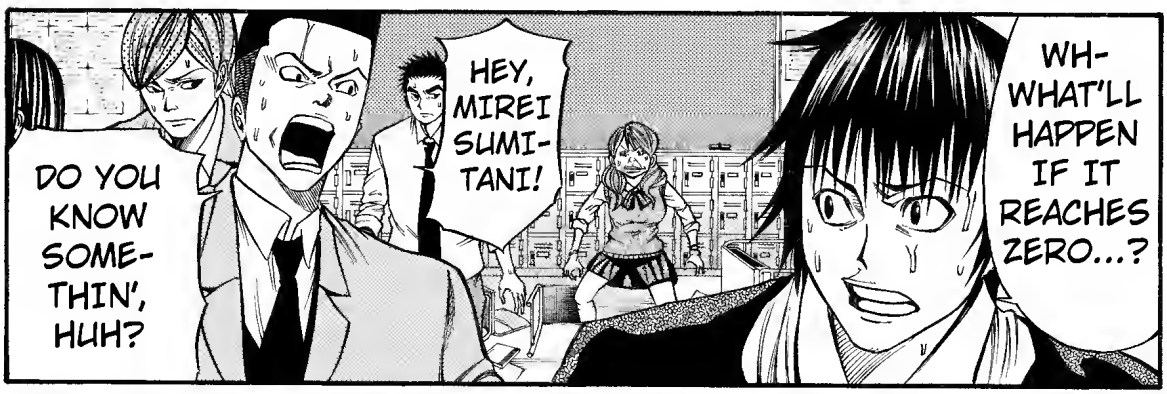

MA
...
I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOK-ING.
'CUZ YOU ALWAYS SHOW UP AROUND AKASHI AND ME.
HUH ...
THERE'S A HUGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOW NICE YOU ARE TO AKASHI ...
AND HOW COLD YOU ARE TO ME.
HUH ?!
YOU ...
REALLY ARE AN IDIOT AFTER ALL...
H- HEY! EVERY-ONE, LOOK AT THAT!
ON THE DARUMA'S BACK!!! LOOK!!!
?!
SA ...

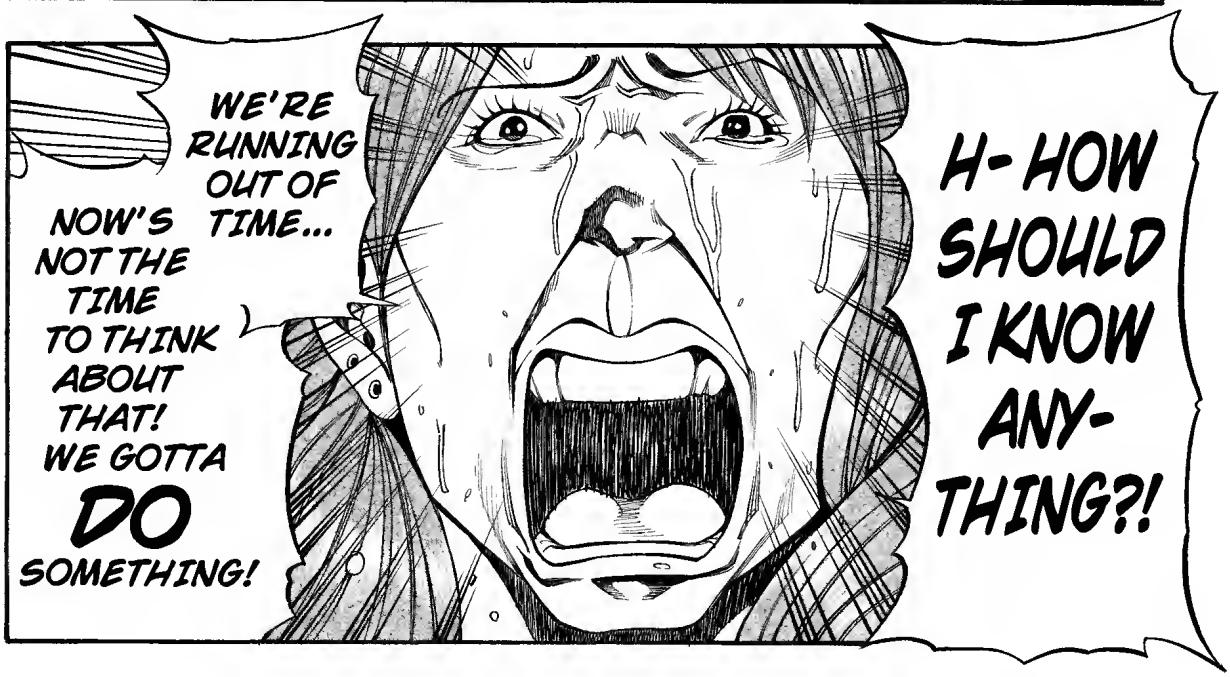


PUSH TO END

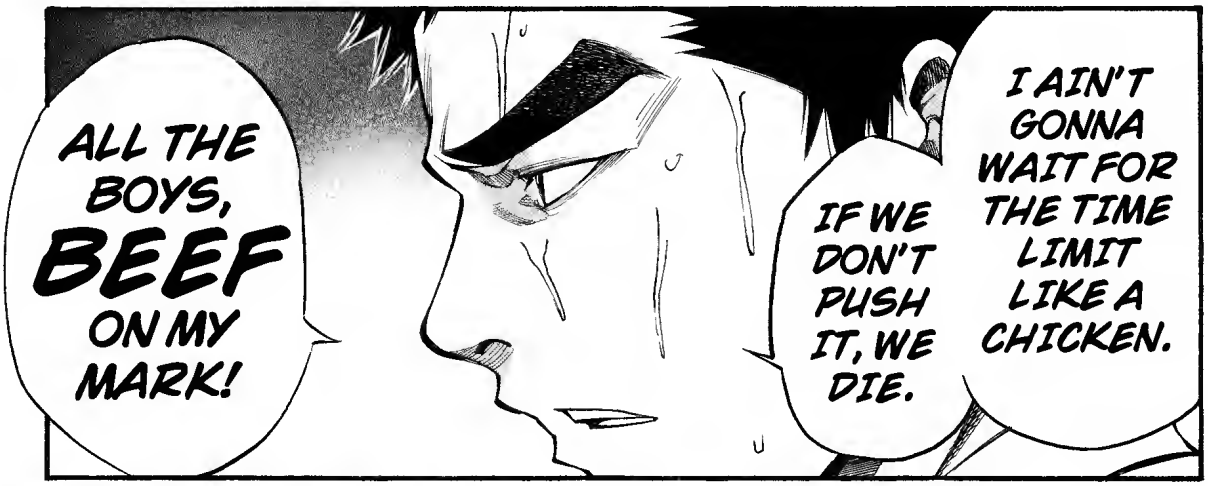

"PUSH ..."
"TO END" ...?
"TO END" ...
FALLEN!!
FREEZE...
IT'LL END!
IF WE PUSH THAT BUTTON ON THE BACK... WE CAN END IT!
SURE, IF WE PUSH IT...


BEFORE THAT TIMER ON ITS BACK REACHES ZERO...
RIGHT?
MIREI SUMITANI!
THAT'S PROBABLY THE TIME LIMIT.
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S DOING THIS, BUT IT'S PRETTY MUCH TERRORISM, RIGHT...?
THIS ISN'T NORMAL, RIGHT?


WH-WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF IT REACHES ZERO...?
HEY, MIREI SUMITANI!
DO YOU KNOW SOMETHIN', HUH?


H-HOW SHOULD I KNOW ANYTHING?!
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME...
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT! WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING!


CALM DOWN, MIREI SUMI-TANI...
LET'S GO ON THE NEXT TURN.
AO-YAMA ...!


I AIN'T GONNA WAIT FOR THE TIME LIMIT LIKE A CHICKEN.
IF WE DON'T PUSH IT, WE DIE.
ALL THE BOYS, BEEF ON MY MARK!


BY "BEEF" YOU MEAN "GO"?
N- NO WAY!
M- MY LEGS AREN'T REALLY UP TO IT...
WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE, RIGHT?
I'M BEEF, TOO, AOYA-MA!!
AO-YAMA ...!!
SHH !!
QUIET, EVERY-ONE...
GET READY ...
...

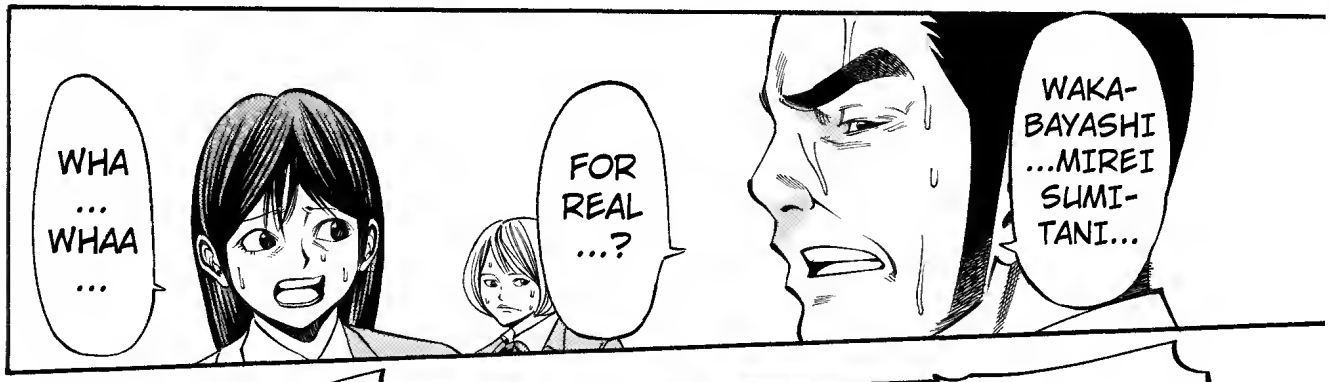

LET'S GO !!!
DA ...
BEEF, CHARGE!!!
WAAAAH!
RU ...


MA-SAN HAS FALLEN!!!
キキィィ
SCREECH
I-IT SPED UP?!
?!!
UH ...?
GAH ...
AGH ...
SCREECH
キキィィ
W-WHOA! W-WHOA! WHOA!!


AAW-
WAHA-
HAAA...
CAN'T
...
I-
I-
WAKA-
BAYASHI
...?!
WA-
AAAGH, I CAAAAN'T!
STUMBLE
CLUNK


BOOM
WAKA-
BAYASHI
?!!
OOOPFF!
WHAM
HEY-
ST-


CREAK...
SLUMP...
THUNK


WAKA-BAYASHI ...MIREI SUMI-TANI...
FOR REAL ...?
WHA ... WHAA ...


WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS DARUMA?!!
IT KNOWS OUR MOVE-MENTS?!
DAMN...
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?
...


IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN IT'S A NO-WIN GAME, RIGHT?
AH ... AHH ...
HIC ...
HIC ...
...
DA ...
RU ...
J-JUST GO ...!
SOME-BODY ...
C'MON, C'MON!
BOY-YYYS !!
WE CAN'T MOVE WITH-OUT IT KNOW-ING...
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE ...!!


SHOVE
HEY... CUT IT OUT! DON'T PUSH!!
BOY-YYYS!!
GENDER DOESN'T MATTER, RIGHT?
MA...
NO WAY! NO WAY! NO WAY!!!
FINE! YOU GO THEN, YOU UGLY COW!
SA...
IT SAYS 20!!
20 WHAT? SEC-ONDS?!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?!
AH!!
HAHH AGHH... GAHH...
THERE'S NO TIME!
PUSH
00:20
END


N...
HAS...
AAAAA-AAAAA-AAAAH!!
WE'RE DOOOO-OOOMED!!!
WHADDA I DO...? WHADDA I...?
I'M GONNA LOSE IT!! SERIOUSLY, I GOTTA THINK OF SOME-THING!!
I DON' WANNA DIE!!
WHADDA I DO, AKASHI?!
IF IT WAS YOU...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
THUMP...
FALL-EN.
?!

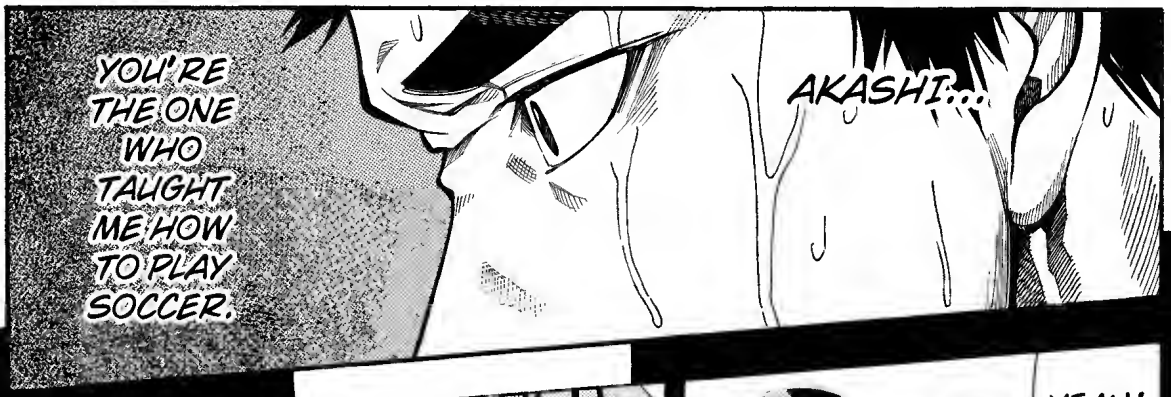

ROLL...
コロ...
HEY, TRANSFER STUDENT!
LET'S PLAY SOC-CER!
Jリーグ



*AKASHI'S SHIRT: "J LEAGUE"
*AOYAMA'S SHIRT: "IGA," A PUN ON "IGAGURI-ATAMA" (LITERALLY "CHESTNUT-IN-ITS-BURR HEAD"), THE CLOSE-CROPPED HAIRSTYLE THAT AOYAMA HAS HERE


WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
IF IT DOESN'T COME TRUE, I'D RATHER DIE! ♪
THAT'S MY DREAM!
HEH HEH!
YOU WRITE SOME-THING, TOO!
I'LL BE THE BEST PASSER IN THE WORLD. -NAOKI
I'LL BE THE BEST STRIKER IN THE WORLD. -AOYAMA
LET'S MAKE OUR DREAMS COME TRUE, TOGETH-ER!
...
BA-DUM
I'LL BE THE BEST STRIKER IN THE WORLD. -AOYAMA
DA ...


IT'S NO USE! NO WAY!
G-GO! C'MON!
FWOOM...
THERE'S NO TIME!


YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME HOW TO PLAY SOCCER.
AKASHI...


CLUB'S OVER, GUYS. I'M GONNA HEAD HOME NOW.
SHAD-DUP.
RU ...
PUSH
0:00:09
TO END
YOU CAN'T JUST SHOOT RANDOM-LY!
A STRIKER SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE ONE OF MY ARTFUL PASSES AND KILL IT WITH ONE SHOT.
YEAH! YEAH! THAT'S IT!
AO-YAMA, YOU'RE A NATU-RAL!
HEH HEH!
OH, YEAH! ANOTHER GOAL!
BOUNCE



*REFERRING TO THE "CHESTNUT-IN-ITS-BURR HEAD" CLOSE-CROPPED HAIRSTYLE HE HAD WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER.


0:00:06
SA...
I'M GONNA APOLOGIZE TO AKASHI...
AND WE'LL PLAY SOCCER AGAIN.
THERE'S NO TIME!!!
TH-
GO!! EVERY-BODY, GO!!
I AIN'T GONNA DIE HERE...
ああああああ AAAAH!
YOU'LL GET SHOT IF YOU DO THAT!
I'LL BE THE BEST PASSER IN THE WORLD. —NAOSHI
I'LL BE THE BEST STRIKER IN THE WORLD. —AOYAMA
AKASHI...
THAT WAS THE PERFECT PASS...
ああああ AAAAH!
SHAD-DUP!
THIS TIME, I WON'T MISS!


I AIN'T GONNA DIE!!!
I CAN'T DIE YET !!!
N...
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK I'VE WORKED...
FOR THIS DAMN PIVOT LEG AND LEFT FOOT!!
KILL IT WITH ONE SHOT.

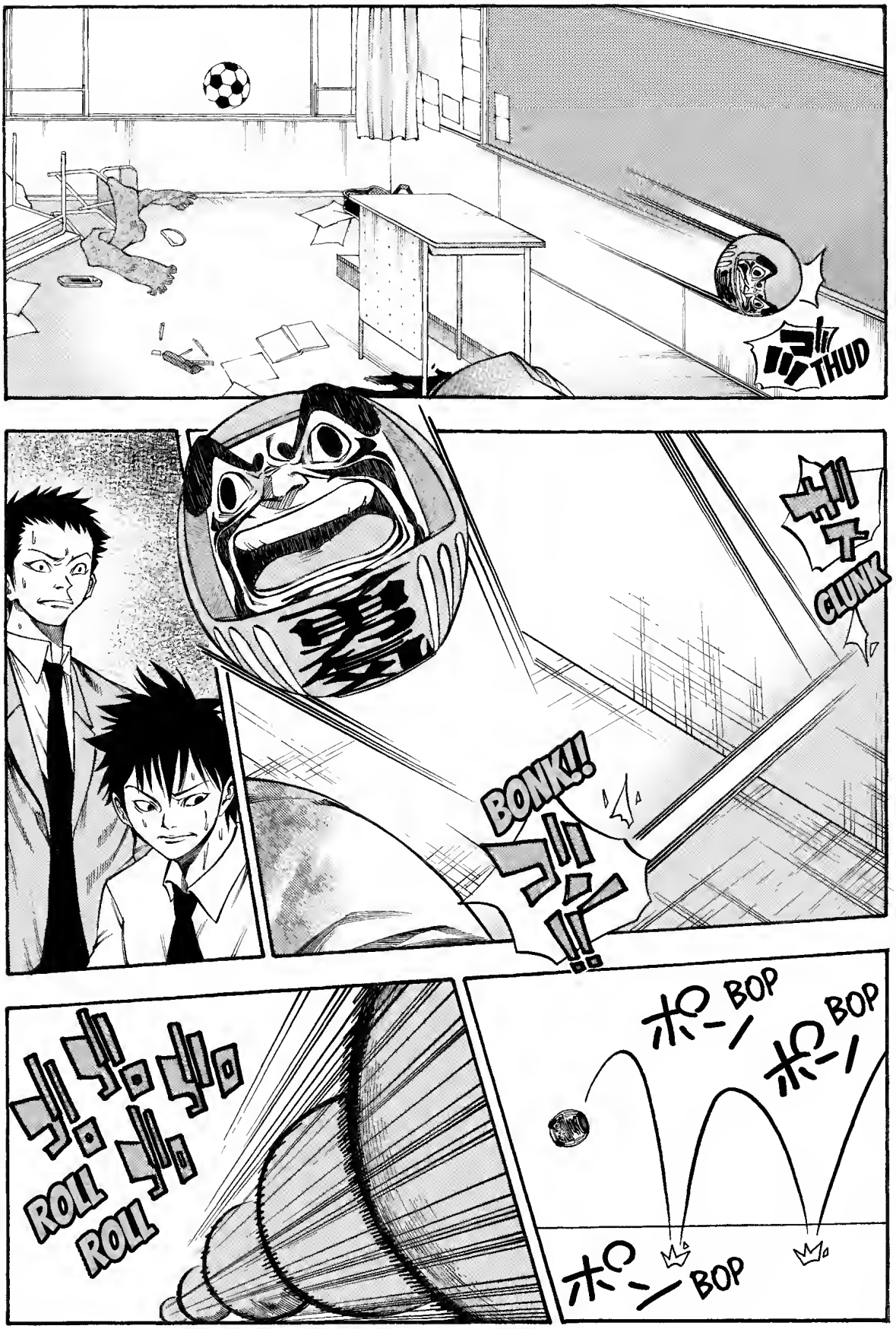

THIS ONE SHOT...
DECIDES IT ALL!!!

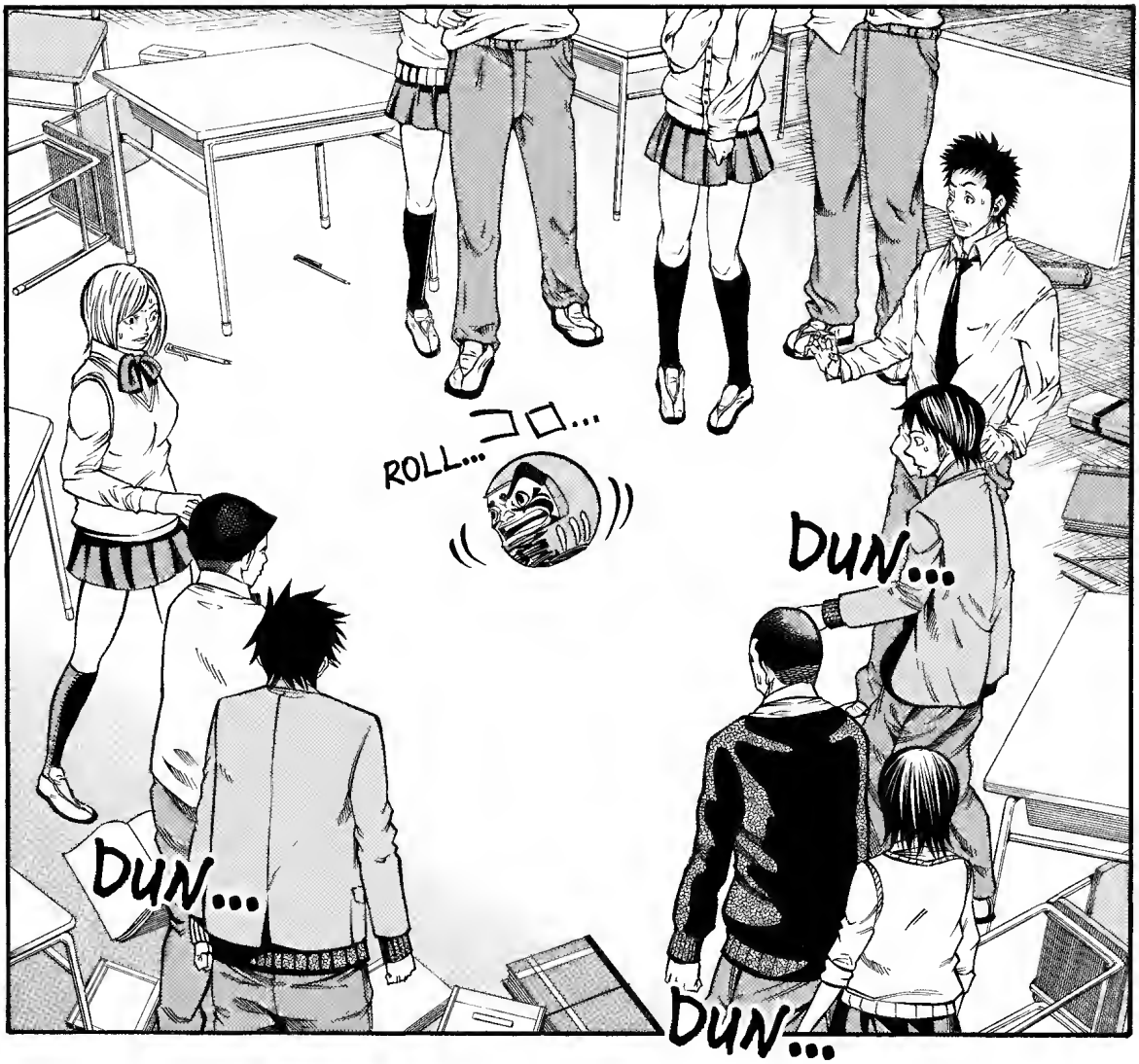

ドゥルルルル
FWOOSH
?!!
HAS...
NO... IT'S JUST HOW I PICTURED IT...
I'VE BEEN WORKING MY BUTT OFF ON THIS FOR THE LAST 3 YEARS.
I MESSED UP BACK THEN, BUT...
YOU-
WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU AIMING, AOYAMA?!


FWHIP
IT TURNS AND SINKS...
FWOOM
AH-
BLAST
THE MATA-DOR SHOT ...!!
FA-


SH
CLICK
LL-




THUD
CLUNK
BONK!!
ROLL
ROLL
BOP
BOP
BOP


ROLL... コロ...
DUN...
DUN...
DUN...


DUN...
...
...
DUN...
...


COMPLETE.


オオオ
WOO-
OOAH!
YOU'RE AMAZING, AOYAMA!
AO-YAMA !!
OH ...
AO-YAMA !!
OH ...
OOO-OOOH ...


AAAA-
AAAL-
RIGHT
!!!!!


AO-
YAMA
!!
THAT'S
ME!!
THAT'S
ME!!
WICKED,
AOYAMA
!!
G-G-
GOAL
!!!


AO-
YAMA
!!
AH
...
AO-
YAMA
!!
AO-
YAMA
!!
はは
WAHA
THAT'S
ME!!
THAT'S
ME!!
はは
HAHA
AO-
YAMA
!!
THAT'S
ME!!


THAT'S MEEE-EEE!!!
JUMP...
AO-YAMA !!
AO-YAMA !!
WAAH
...
THAT'S ME! THAT'S ME!!
AO-YAMA !!
AO-YAMA !!
...
THAT'S ME! THAT'S ME! THAT'S ME!!!
AO-YAMA !!
AO-YAMA !!
THAT'S ME! THAT'S ME!!! THAT'S ME! THAT'S ME!!!

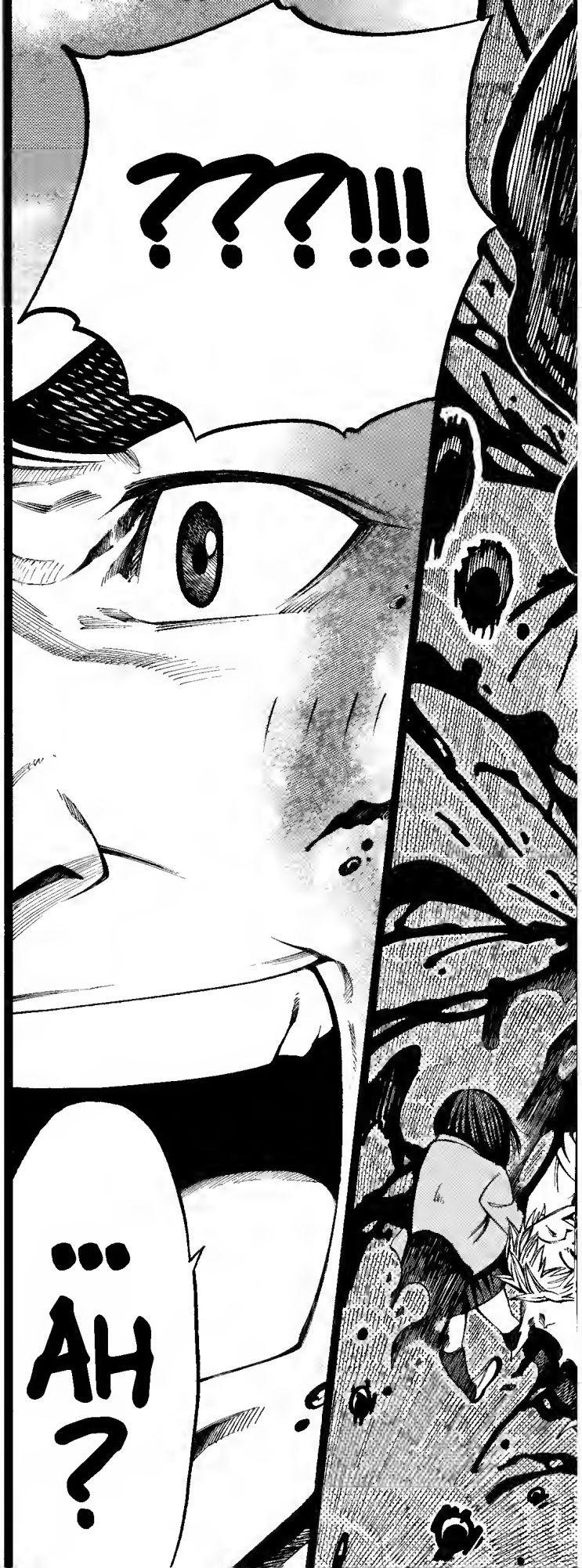

B-BA
B-BA
B-BA
B-BA
B-BA



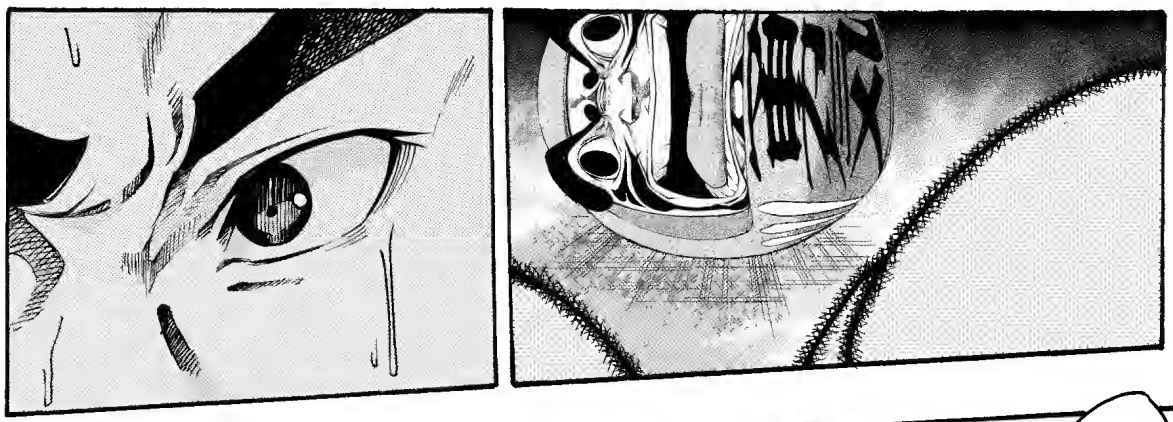



SHOT ...?
バチャ
SPLATTER
EVERY-BODY'S... DEAD...?
WHY ...?


TAKA-HASHI ...
WHY IS THIS ...


???!!
...AH?


THUD



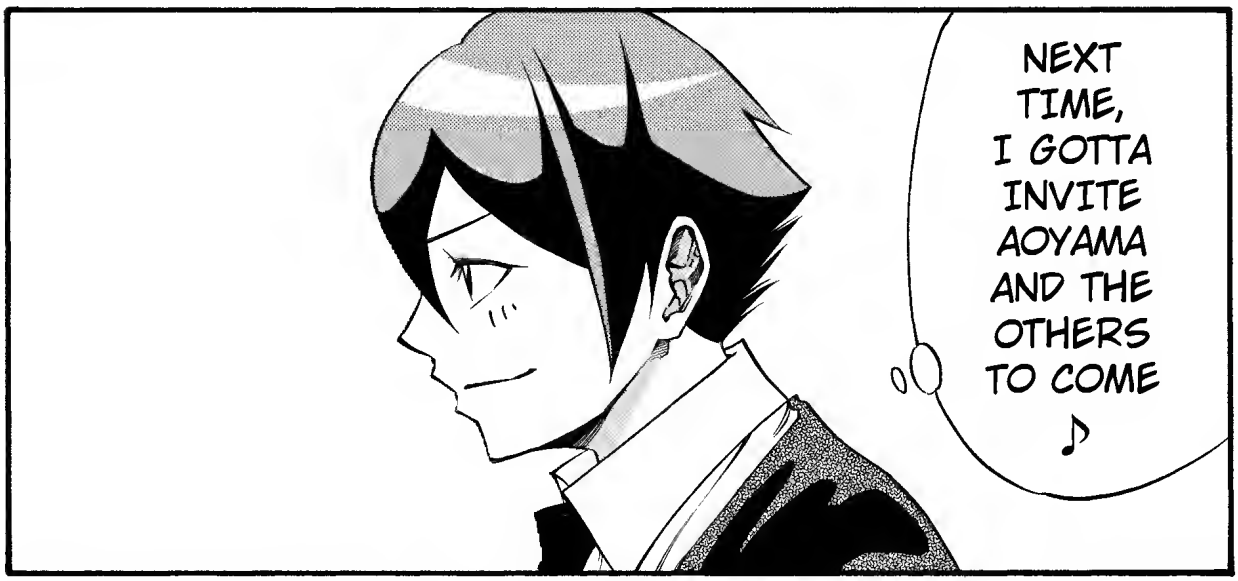

...
SENICHI AOYAMA
...

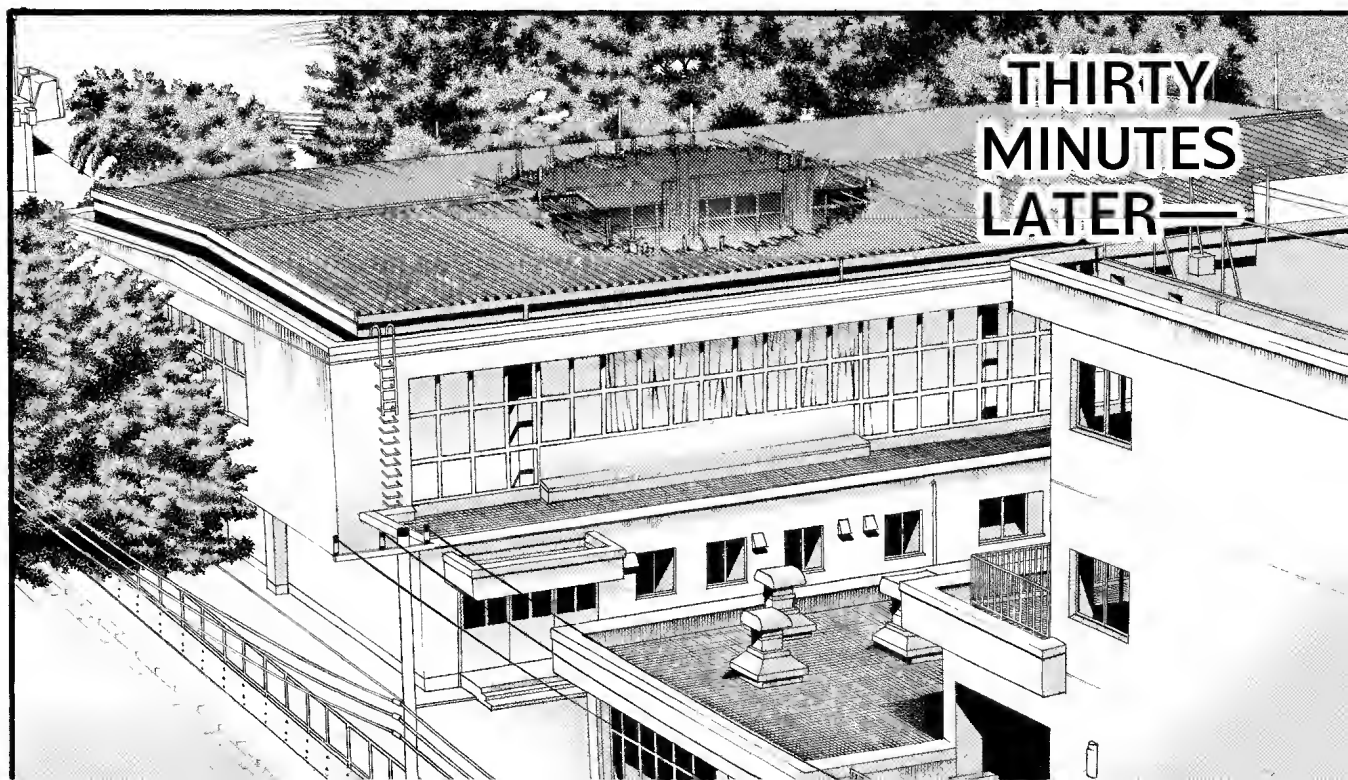

...
HUH ?!
UH ?
HUH ?!
WHY... ONLY ME...
AAH...
WHY ...?!
YOU CLEAR-ED IT.
!
LIVES.
SENICHI AOYAMA ...
LIVE.
SO YOU ALONE ...


LIVES.
COLLAPSE


ROLL
コロン
THE CAT IS COM-ING~
IT'S COMING SOO-OON~
YOU'RE A MOUSE, YOU ARE.
ゴロン
ROLL
YOU MUST GO TO THE GYM.
HURRY UP!
ROLL
ゴロン
HURRY UP!
YOU MUST GO TO THE GYM.
IT'S COMING SOO-OON~
YOU'RE A MOUSE, YOU ARE.
THE CAT IS COM-ING~


I REALLY AM GOOD AT THIS...
HEH HEH!
A BRILLIANT GOOOOAL !!!
AND HE RUNS THE BALL INTO THE BACK OF THE NET!


NEXT TIME, I GOTTA INVITE AOYAMA AND THE OTHERS TO COME ♪


THIRTY MINUTES LATER—

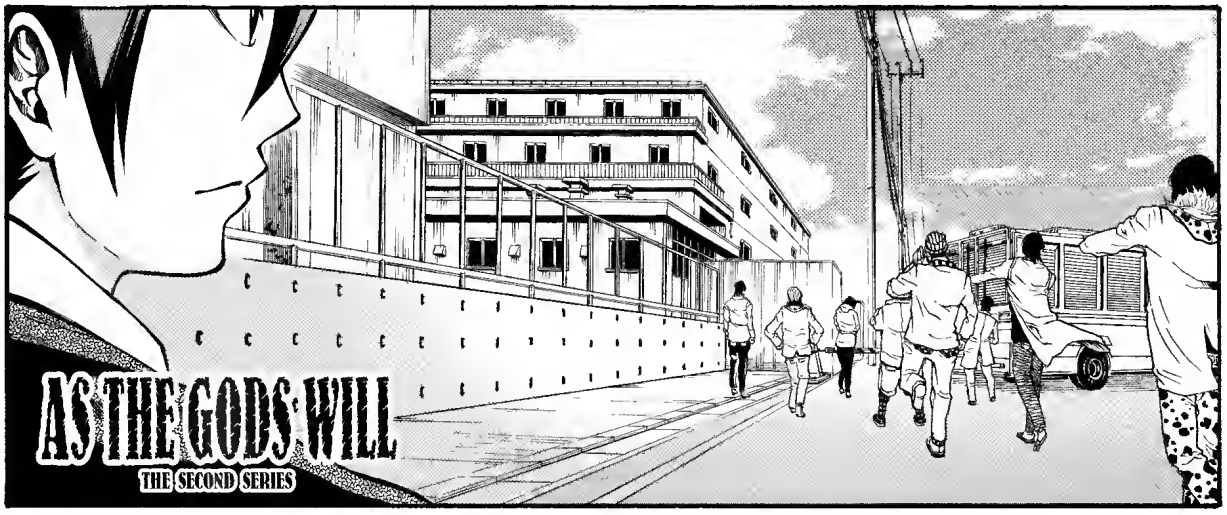
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
3-C
青山
1-B
三国
1-B
戸
09:50

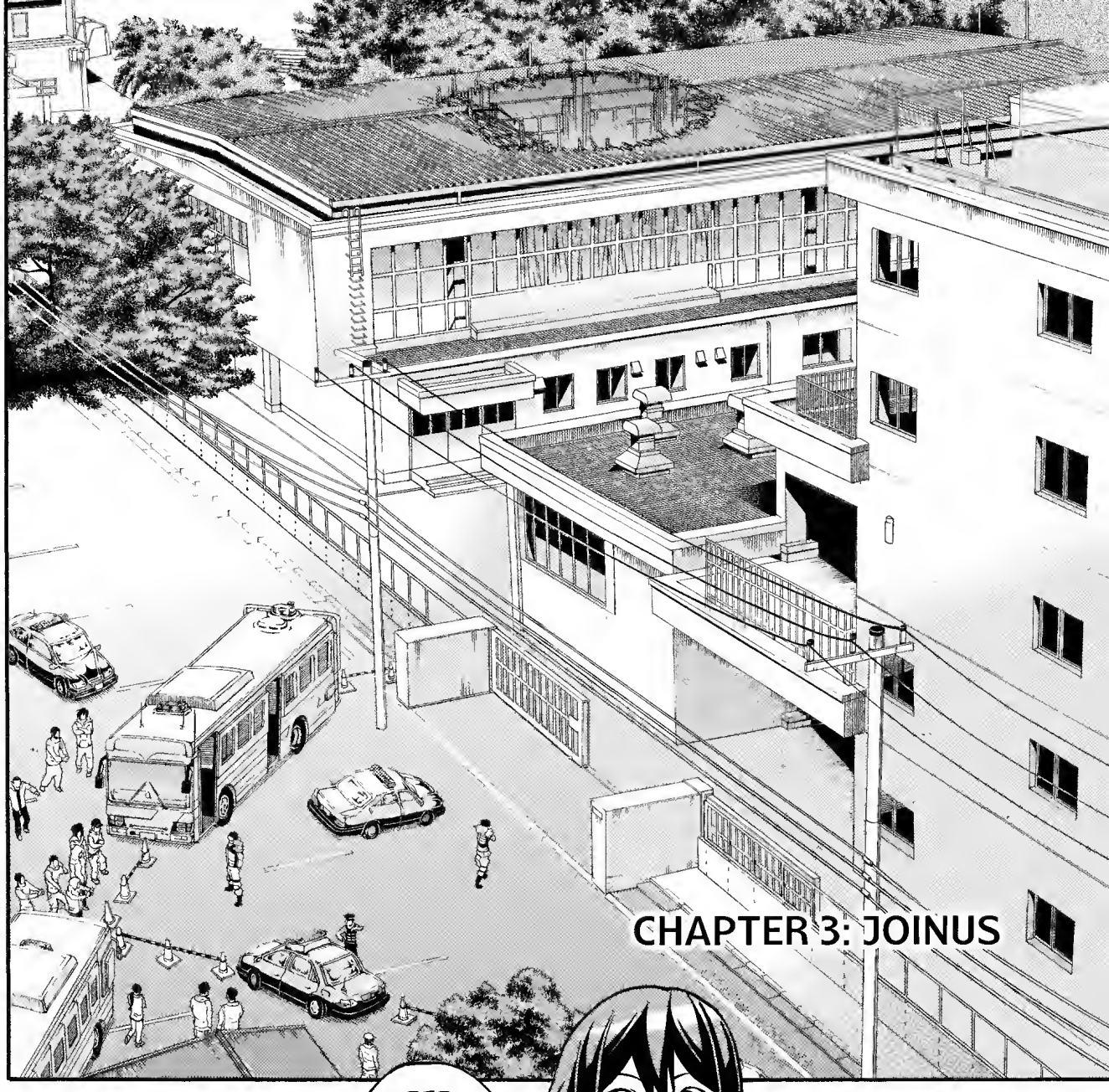
*MOUSE SUIT: "AOYAMA"




WHAT SHOULD I WRITE BACK? "I'M SOOOO SORRY!"?
From: AOYAMA
Subject:
MAYBE BACKSIDES AREN'T BAD EITHER.
SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED YOU A CHICKEN.
NOW GET BACK TO SCHOOL ALREADY.
THAT SOUNDS A LITTLE FAKE...
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IT MIGHT WORK...
I'D HATE TO SOUND TOO SERIOUS ...

WELL, I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER... IF I GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND APOLOGIZE, THEN HE'LL FORGIVE ME, RIGHT?
!

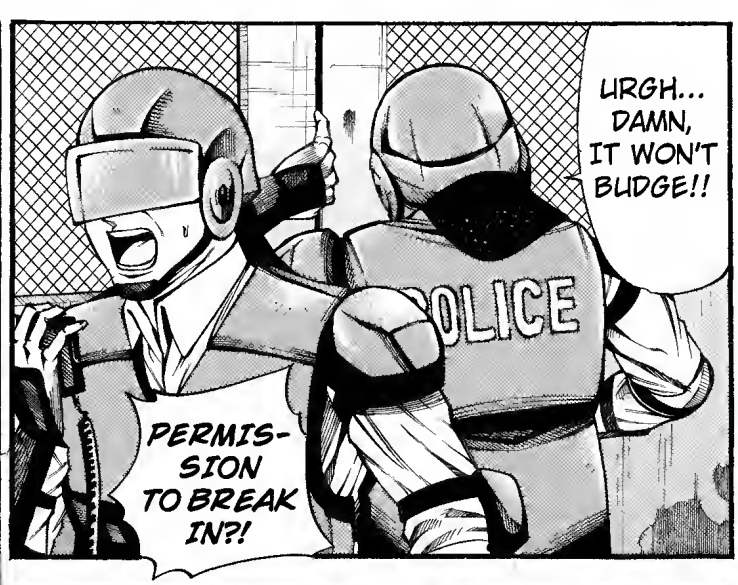

AS THE GODS WILL
THE SECOND SERIES


CHAPTER 3: JOINUS


WHAT'S THIS...?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN AT MY SCHOOL?
EH?
YOU A STUDENT HERE, SONNY?
I HEARD GUNSHOTS AND SCREAMING, SO I CALLED 911.
LOOKS LIKE A BUNCH OF PEOPLE ARE DEAD.
HUH ?

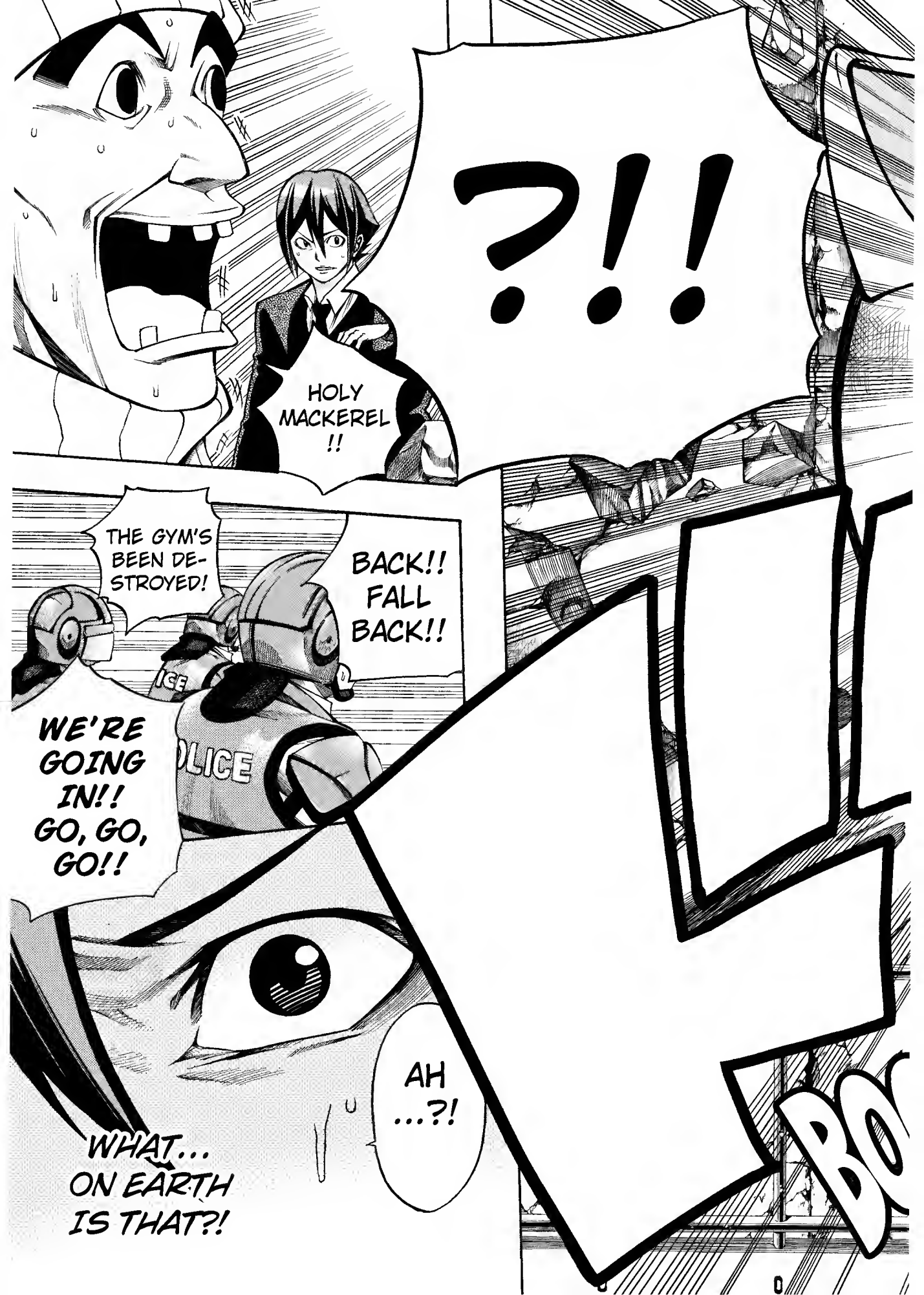

HEY! WHY WON'T THIS DOOR OPEN?!
DID I TELL YA I CALLED 911?
WE'RE AT THE GYM!! THERE ARE NOISES COMING FROM INSIDE!!
OH... DID YOU NOW?
HYPER


CLATTER
?!
HUH...? IT OPENED UP...


URGH... DAMN, IT WON'T BUDGE!!
PERMIS-SION TO BREAK IN?!

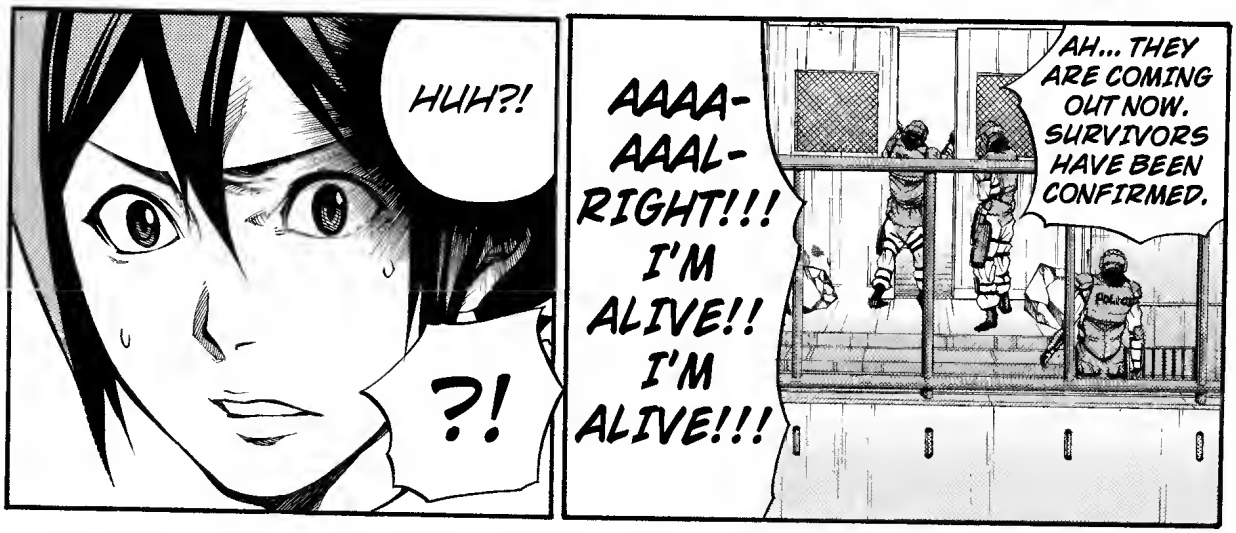

SHOVE
HEY! EXCUSE ME!!
I CALLED 911... UMPH ...!

MEOOOOOW
OOM


?!!
HOLY MACKEREL !!
THE GYM'S BEEN DE-STROYED!
BACK!! FALL BACK!!
WE'RE GOING IN!! GO, GO, GO!!
AH ...?!
WHAT... ON EARTH IS THAT?!

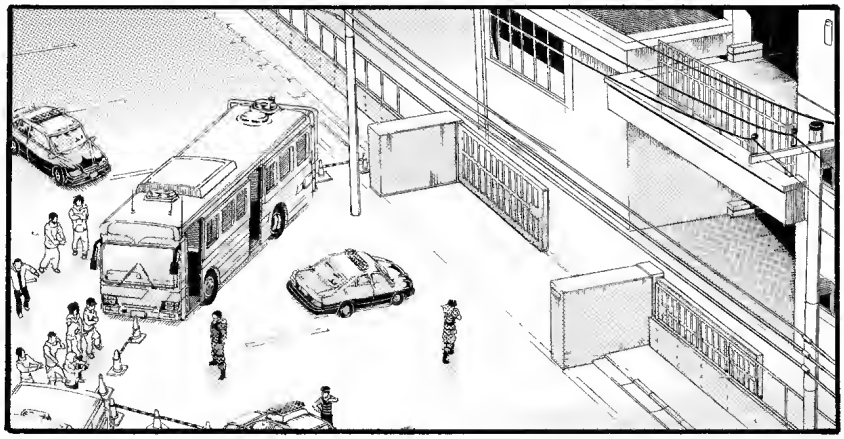

A CAT ...?!


IT'S DANGER-OUS! PLEASE STAY BACK!!
HA HA HA!
STAY BACK!!


HUH?!
?!
AAAA-AAAL-RIGHT!!! I'M ALIVE!! I'M ALIVE!!!
AH... THEY ARE COMING OUT NOW. SURVIVORS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED.


I SUR-
VIVED
!!!
I DON'T WANNA DIE...
I DON'T WANNA DIE...


AAAA-
AAAH!!
RUN!!
RUN!!
SOMEONE ELSE IS COMING OUT!!




EXCUSE ME!! LET ME THROUGH !!
EXCU-
AH...


AH-
HEY,
YOU!
WAIT!
AO-
YAMA
?!
AO-
YAMA
?!
?!
HEY!
SOMEONE
STOP THIS
KID!!
HEY?!
WHAT
HAPPENED
?!
AO-
YAMA
?!
AKA...
SHI
...?


WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HEY?! WHERE'S EVERY-ONE ELSE?!
GET BACK!! DON'T TOUCH HIM!!
LET'S ...
PLAY SOCCER ...
AKA-SHI...
LET'S PLAY SOCCER ...

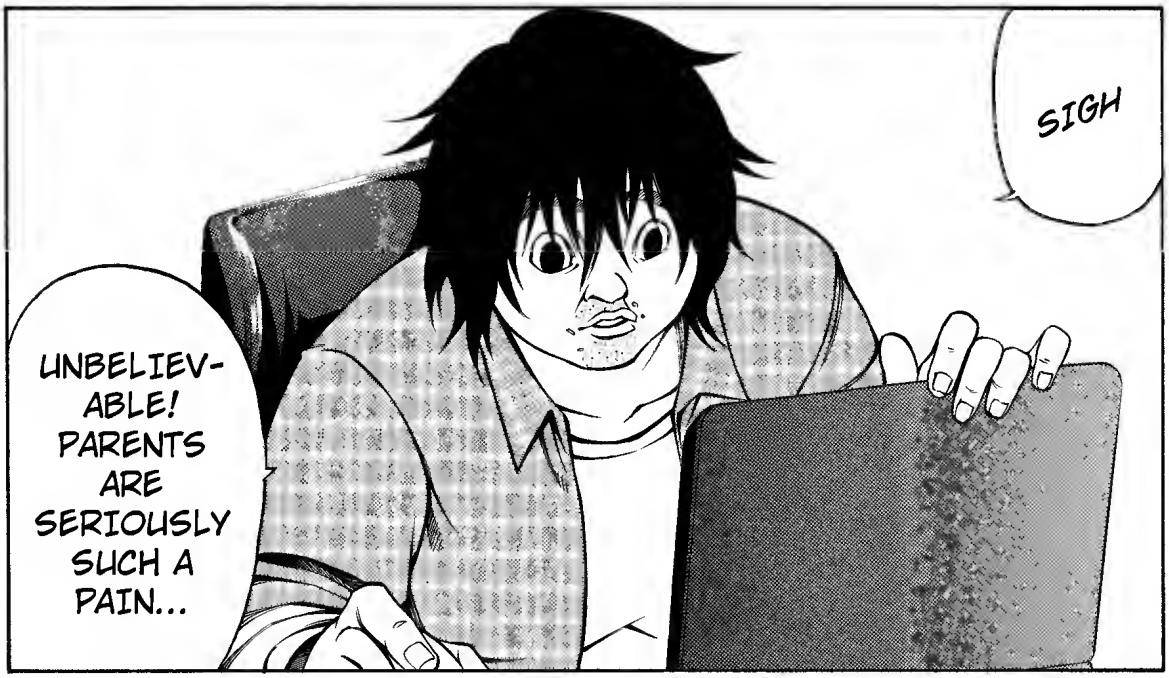

IS YOUR LIFE FLASHING BEFORE YOUR EYES OR SOME-THING?!
WH-HEY !!
POLICE
DON'T DIE ON ME!! AOYAMA !!!


WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?! WHERE IS EVERY-ONE?!


I MEAN, WHY THE HELL ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE A MOUSE?!!
WHERE'S TAKAHASHI?! AND WAKA-BAYASHI?! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!!


I SAID I WAS ON THE TOILET !!
HUH?!
SHUT UP! THAT AIN'T IT! YA OLD HAG!!


...I AIN'T GONNA EAT RIGHT NOW! HOW MANY TIMES DO I GOTTA TELL YA?!
DROP DEAD, YA SLIME!!! YOU'RE SUCH A MORON!
SLAM


SIGH
UNBELIEV-ABLE! PARENTS ARE SERIOUSLY SUCH A PAIN...


CURRENT-LY THERE ARE ONLY THREE KNOWN SUR-VIVORS.
...
DON'T YOU HATE IT WHEN...
HA HA HA HA HA HA...

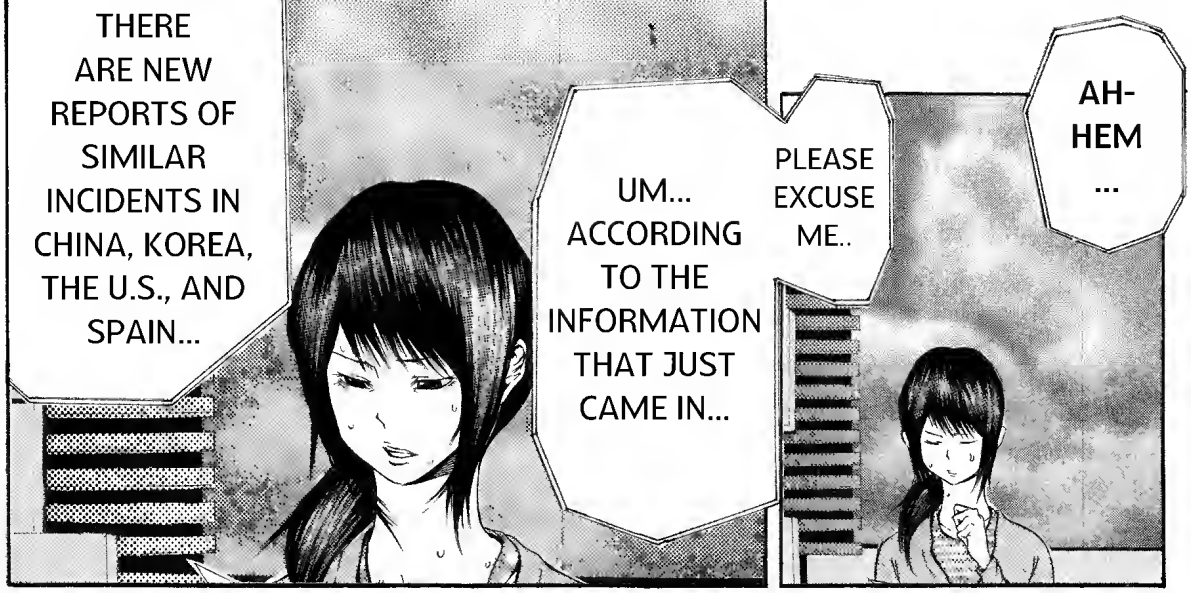




* LITERALLY "WITHDRAWN," RECLUSIVE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WITHDRAW FROM SOCIAL LIFE, ISOLATE THEMSELVES AT HOME, AND ARE FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY THEIR PARENTS


...A SMALL NUMBER OF SURVIVING STUDENTS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED AT A FEW OF THE SCHOOLS, BUT...
ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ...?!
HUH ?
WHA-
THOSE INVOLVED ALL SEEM TO HAVE THE SAME STORY, SAYING...
NOW, ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS, THE ACCOUNTS OF EVENTS GATHERED SO FAR ARE EXTREMELY BAFFLING...
AND ARE STILL BEING QUESTIONED ABOUT THE INCIDENT AT THIS TIME.
THEY HAVE ALL BEEN TAKEN UNDER PROTECTIVE CUSTODY BY THE POLICE...
"WE WERE PUTTING A BELL ON THE CAT."
"THE DARUMA DOLL DID IT."


...
HUH
?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?!
IS THIS FOR REAL ...?
HA HA
HA ...
THAT'S AWE-SOME! WHAT'S GOING ON...?
A BUNCH OF LOSERS DIED...
HEH ...
HEH HEH ...
AH HA!
...AND WE JUST RECEIVED A FOLLOW-UP REPORT...
?!
WHA-
REALLY ?!
?


AH-HEM ...
PLEASE EXCUSE ME..
UM... ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION THAT JUST CAME IN...
THERE ARE NEW REPORTS OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN CHINA, KOREA, THE U.S., AND SPAIN...


THIS SERIES OF INCIDENTS...
OH HO ...
HO HO...
HO-

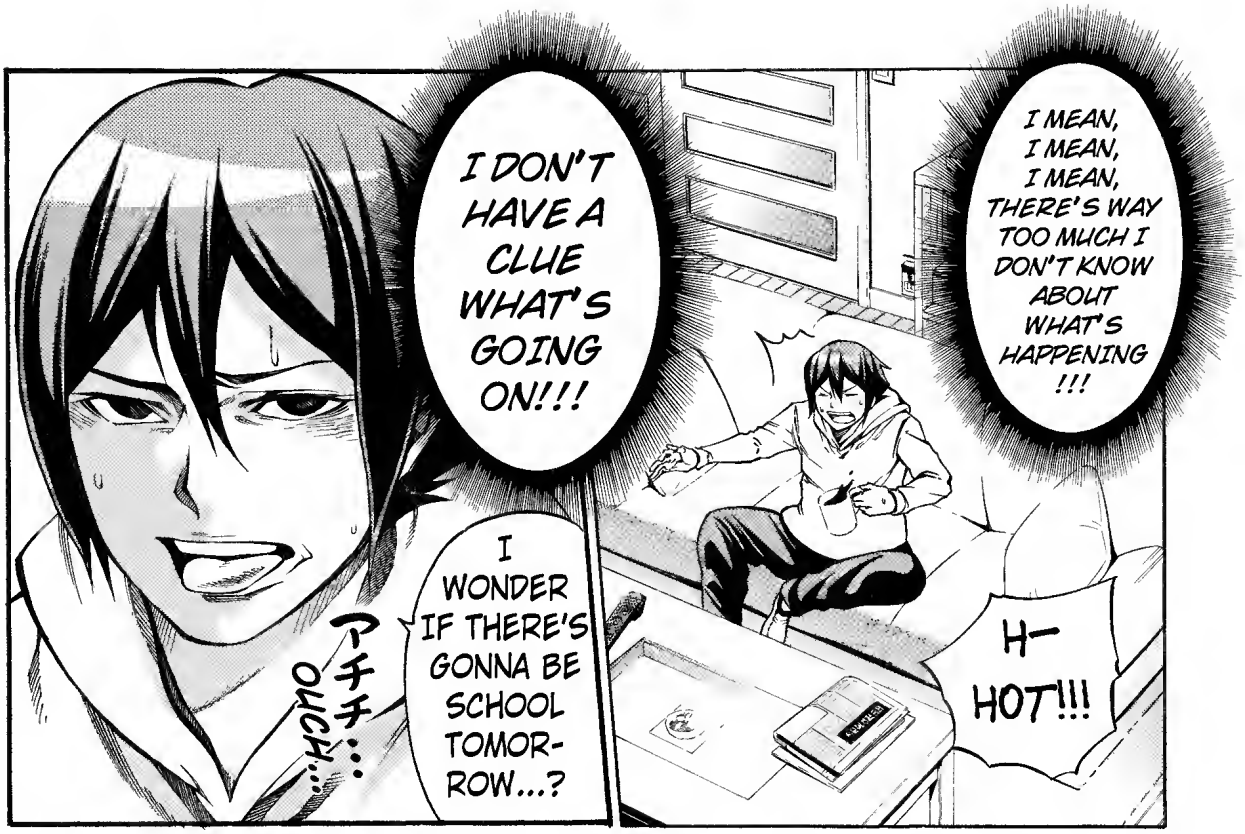

SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING ON A GLOBAL SCALE.
HO HO HO...
HO HO...


H-
HAA
AAA
AAA
AAA-
HAH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
!!
WOOWIEEE!!!
HEY,
C'MON
NOW!
WHAT IS
THIS?
CALM
DOWN!!
...
THIS
HAS
GOTTEN
INSANE
...

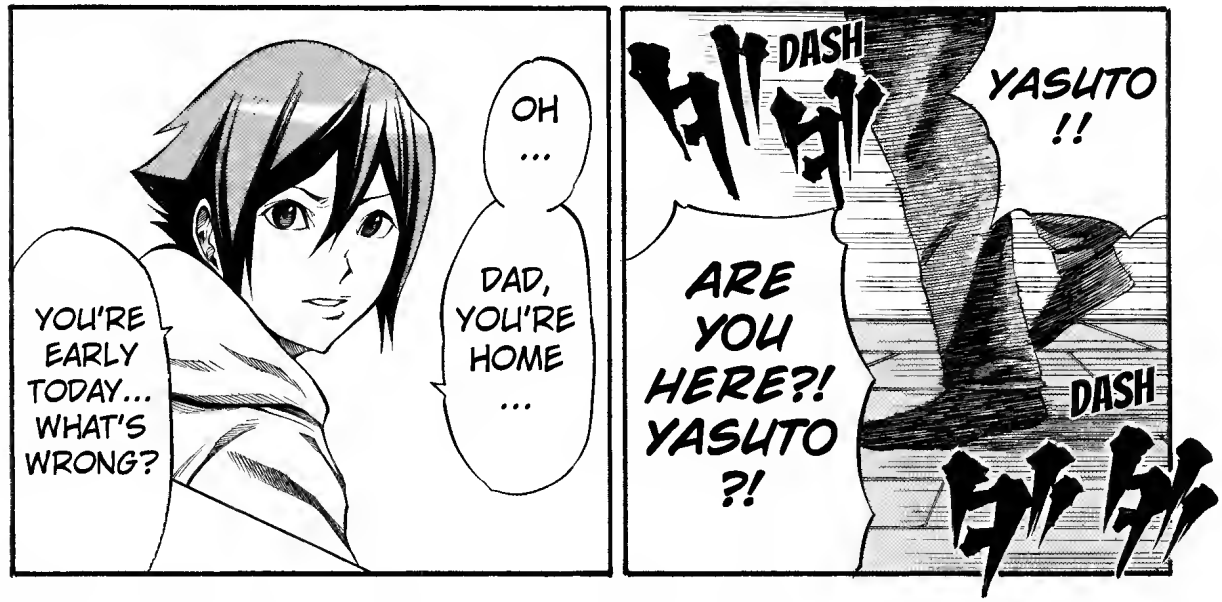

ALL NEWS ORGANIZATIONS ARE VIEWING THIS AS SIMULTANEOUS GLOBAL TERRORISM.
AROUND THE WORLD, THE INCIDENTS ARE LIMITED TO HIGH SCHOOLS...


I MEAN... THANK GOODNESS I WENT HOME WHEN I DID...!!
I MEAN, IS EVERY-ONE...
REALLY DEAD?


I MEAN, WAS THAT GIANT CAT A ROBOT?
I MEAN, WHERE IS...
AO-YAMA?


I MEAN, I MEAN, I MEAN, THERE'S WAY TOO MUCH I DON'T KNOW ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING !!!
I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT'S GOING ON!!!
H- HOT!!!
I WONDER IF THERE'S GONNA BE SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW...?
アチチ... OUCH...

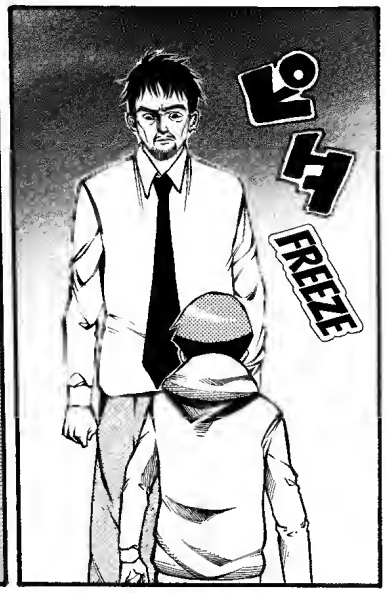

THUD
THUD
STOMP
STOMP
!


DASH
YASUTO !!
ARE YOU HERE?! YASUTO ?!
DASH
OH ...
DAD, YOU'RE HOME ...
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY... WHAT'S WRONG?


HUFF
...
HUFF
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHAT'S WRONG" ?!
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER THE PHONE! I WAS WORRIED SICK!!
OH... YOU CALLED? I DIDN'T NOTICE ...
AAAH! THANK GOOD-NESS!
SQUEEZE...
HEY- WHA-
EVER SINCE YOUR MOTHER LEFT ME, I...
IF I WERE TO LOSE YOU, TOO...
I COULDN'T HANDLE IT... YASUTO-OOOO!

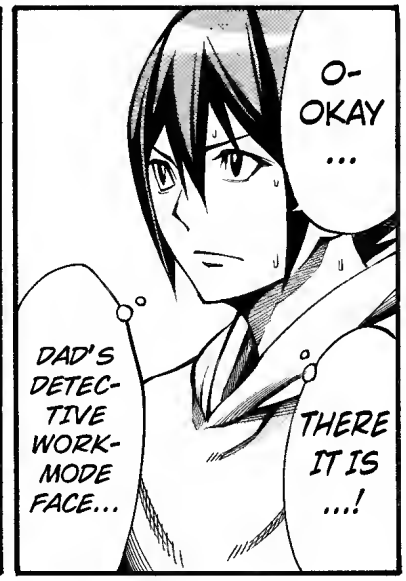

HEY... CALM DOWN, DAD!!
I MEAN, TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!!
YOU WORK FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, SO YOU MUST KNOW, RIGHT?!


... YASU-TO...
THIS IS JUST BE-TWEEN US.


ピト
FREEZE


IS THAT AT YOUR SCHOOL ...


IT'S HAPPENING WORLD-WIDE AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY CLUES AS TO WHO'S BEHIND IT. NOW, WHAT I CAN TELL YOU...
UH-HUH ...
YOU SAW THE NEWS ?


O-OKAY ...
DAD'S DETEC-TIVE WORK-MODE FACE...
THERE IT IS ...!


ONLY THREE PEOPLE SURVIVED.
...?!
ONLY THREE ...?!
YES ...
EVERYONE, INCLUDING THE TEACHERS ...
GRIP
WERE FOUND DEAD WITH HUGE HOLES IN THEIR BODIES...
SO...
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALIVE...
SQUEEZE
...
...WAIT A SEC, DAD...
GRIP
ONE OF THOSE THREE PEOPLE ...


IS MY BEST FRIEND.
TELL ME WHERE HE IS!!
I CAN'T DO THAT.
GEH...
HIS WORK-MODE FACE!!
WHY NOT?! I WON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE FOR YOU!!
HE'S UNDER POLICE PROTECTION, RIGHT?!
I'LL JUST WALK THERE AND...
NO.
STAY HOME FOR NOW.


I WON'T BE HOME FOR A WHILE, BUT MAKE SURE TO ANSWER THE PHONE.
ALSO, IT COULD BE THAT REPORTERS COME BY FOR AN INTERVIEW OR SOMETHING, BUT YOU MUST NOT ANSWER THE DOOR.
GOT IT? DON'T ANSWER FOR ANYONE.
UNTIL I GIVE THE OKAY, GOING OUTSIDE IS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN.
OKAY, I'M OFF.
CLACK
GO TO SLEEP FOR NOW ...
...
KA-CLUNK


6 7 8 9
12:57
TICK ... TOCK ...
TICK ... TOCK ...
TICK ... TOCK ...
TICK ... TOCK ...
BLINK...
WITH ALL THIS TERROR-ISM GOING ON...?!
HOW CAN I LET MY GUARD DOWN AND SLEEP?!!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SLEEP?!


THAT IDIOT WAS RISKING HIS LIFE...
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS SAY I'M SORRY TO AOYAMA...
SIT UP...
I MEAN, I CAN'T EVEN SIT STILL!!
AND THEN IT COMES TO THIS...
BITE...
ALL I CAN DO IS FIND HIM...
AND APOLO-GIZE, FACE TO FACE...
I GUESS HE'S IN A HOSPITAL SOME-WHERE...
ANYWAY, SORRY, DAD...
I'M GONNA COMPLETELY DISREGARD YOUR INSTRUC-TIONS...


IS EVERYONE... REALLY DEAD...?
... BESIDES ...
EVEN TAKA-HASHI ...
...
MUSHA-NOKOUJI ...?!
WAKA-BAYASHI... TAABOU...
AND RAN OUT OF SCHOOL ...
HEH ...
THAT WAS CLOSE ...
AND ME TOO, IF I HADN'T GOTTEN INTO THAT FIGHT...

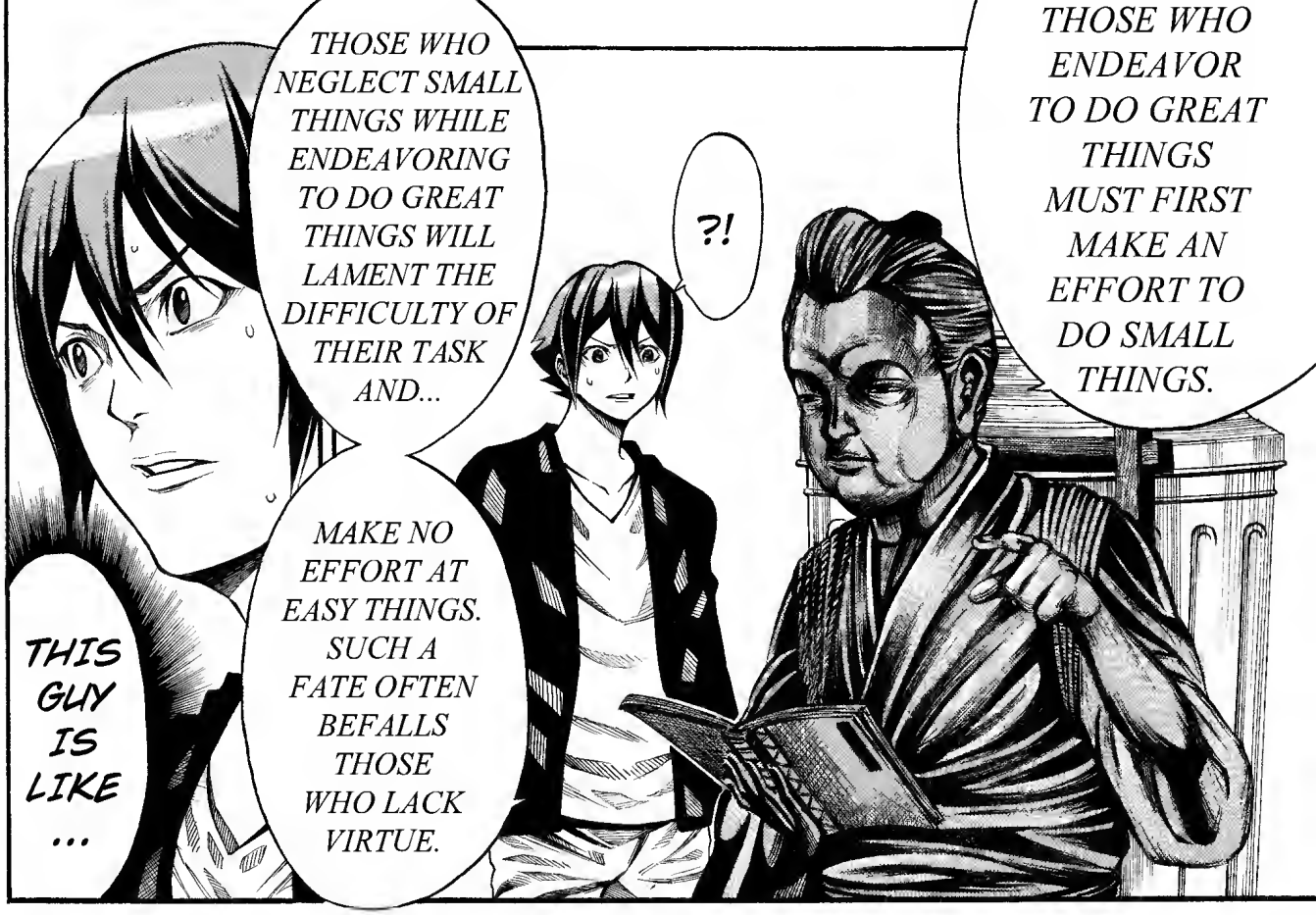

DING DONG
SHOCK!!
UWAH... THAT SCARED ME...
AH ...?
WHO COULD THAT BE AT THIS HOUR?!
AAARGH... IS IT A REPORTER LIKE DAD SAID?
LIKE FROM THE NEWS-PAPER ...?!
WELL, WHAT-EVER. I'LL IGNORE IT...
THEY JUST KEEP RINGING ...!!!
HOW DESPERATE CAN YOU BE? C'MON NOW...!!!
ROLL...


DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
CLACK
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
JUMP
THEY JUST KEEP RING-ING! C'MON!
WHAT?! WANT ME TO ANSWER ?!
YA GONNA IGNORE SOMEONE'S PRIVACY JUST FOR AN INTERVIEW, HUH?!
WELL, SCREW THAT! I'LL GIVE 'EM A PIECE OF MY MIND!
HEY! YA JERK!
BAM
WHAT TIME DO YA THINK THIS IS?!!




HUH
...


DING DONG


THOSE WHO NEGLECT SMALL THINGS WHILE ENDEAVORING TO DO GREAT THINGS WILL LAMENT THE DIFFICULTY OF THEIR TASK AND...
?!
THOSE WHO ENDEAVOR TO DO GREAT THINGS MUST FIRST MAKE AN EFFORT TO DO SMALL THINGS.
THIS GUY IS LIKE ...
MAKE NO EFFORT AT EASY THINGS. SUCH A FATE OFTEN BEFALLS THOSE WHO LACK VIRTUE.


ONE OF THOSE STATUES IN FRONT OF SCHOOLS...?!
YET WHEN SMALL THINGS ARE ACCUMULATED, THEY BECOME GREAT.



*A PROMINENT 19TH-CENTURY JAPANESE AGRICULTURAL LEADER, PHILOSOPHER, MORALIST AND ECONOMIST. STATUES OF HIM ARE OFTEN FOUND IN OR IN FRONT OF JAPANESE SCHOOLS.


WHAT ...?!
"NINO" ...?!
PA-
KUNK
YEAH, I'M NINO.
NOW, GET ON.
JOINUS.


SHOCK------
927: SHUT UP, LOSER
928: ON THE OTHER HAND, COULD
GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD ARE VIEWING IT AS SIMULTANEOUS GLOBAL TERRORISM, BUT ON THE INTERNET...
MUCH SPECULATION ABOUNDS, SUCH AS WHETHER IT IS "GOD'S WRATH" OR "THE WORK OF ALIENS"... THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THIS STRING OF INCIDENTS REMAINS, AS YET...
HU ...
HU HA HA...
C-CLICK
C-CLICK
C-CLICK
C-CLICK
CHAPTER 4: ELATI-OUT
HEY... YA HAG!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING LETTING YOURSELF INTO MY SANCTUARY ?!!
YOU'RE BREAKING THE 1ST OF TAKUMI'S TEN COMMAND-MENTS, "THOU SHALT KNOCK"...
ガチャ
KA-CLACK
!


CREAK...
Y-
YEAH. ...I'M NINO.
YOU WERE ABSENT FROM "SCHOOL" TODAY, RIGHT?
YOU AREN'T MY MOM !!!
ズテーン!!
TUMBLE!!


AT THE AKASHI RESIDENCE
NINO HAS COME FOR THE CHILDREN WHO SKIPPED SCHOOL.
...HUH?
IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN FOR THOSE WHO WERE AT SCHOOL.
UH...
IF YOU'RE COMING, THEN RIDE ON MY BACK.
WHAT IS THIS THING?! ...HOW IS IT MOVING...?!
IS THERE A PERSON INSIDE?! ...IS IT A ROBOT?!
I MEAN, HE'S TALKING...?! ANYWAY, WHY'S HE CARRYING A TRASH CAN?!
WHAT DOES HE MEAN HE'S "COME FOR ME"?!
AH...


WHY IS EVERY-ONE DEAD?!
WHAT ARE THE SUR-VIVORS ....
WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT A DARUMA DOLL AND THE CAT... AND THE MOUSE SUIT?!
YOU KNOW SOME-THING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY, DON'T YOU?
TELL ME!!
THAT WAS THE PROLOGUE.
THE NEXT ROUND WILL BEGIN VERY SOON.
WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE PART, HURRY AND GET ON.
HE WEIGHS A TON ...
UGH ...


BUT WAIT A SEC ...
QUIVER
QUIVER
QUIVER
"IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE PART"...
DOES THAT MEAN AOYAMA IS TAKING PART IN THE "NEXT ROUND" AS WELL...?
I TOLD YOU...
NO GOING OUTSIDE !!!
HELP ME... AKASHI ...HEH ...
BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT AOYAMA. HE'S INJURED...
IF THAT'S TRUE THEN I CAN MEET AOYAMA AND APOLOGIZE... BUT I CAN TOTALLY SEE DAD FLIPPING OUT...
HE MIGHT DIE IN THE "NEXT ROUND"...
NINO IS A MESSENGER FOR THAT PURPOSE.
!
BUT WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE.
YOU ARE TRASH THAT SKIPPED SCHOOL.



*ON TRASH CAN: "DECISION"







*A YOUNG PERSON WHO IS NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAINING.


PSHH
THAT'S A TOUCHING TALE (SOB)...


SHINE
AND SO, PLEASE FORGET ...
THAT WE EVER TALKED.


SCREEE
YOU'RE ACTING OUT OF FILIAL PIETY.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I HAVE NO CHOICE ...
UHBA...
IM GONNA BE KILLED ...!!!

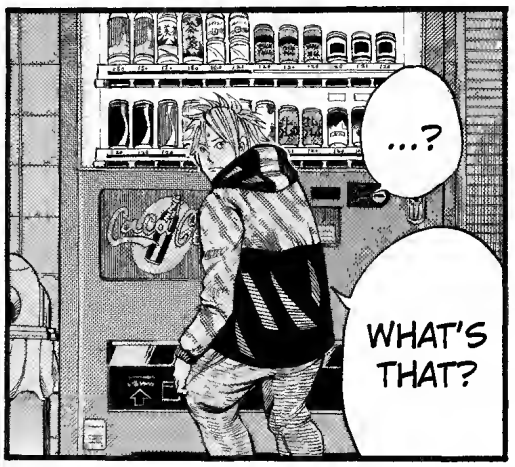

UM... HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO RIDE THIS...
UH... OKAY ...
IS THAT RIGHT? ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?
LIKE THIS ...?
QUICK, QUICK.
WE'VE GOTTA HURRY ...
WELL THEN, GET ON.
ゴォ...ゴゴゴ


LIAH ...
W-
WOW!
WHOOSH
VROOOM
WE'RE REALLY FLYING ...
GOTTA HURRY ...



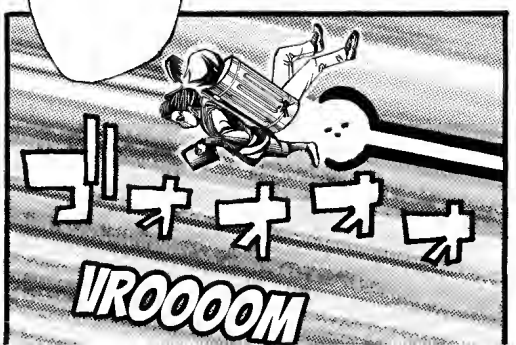

GOTTA GET A PHOTO!
I'LL POST IT ON MY BLOG ♪
WOO-HOO ♪


GAKKA SHAKK
THE PLACE WE ARE GOING TO NOW...


...?
WHAT'S THAT?


WHOA...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...


PSSHU
IS THE "TRASH CAN."


VROOOOM



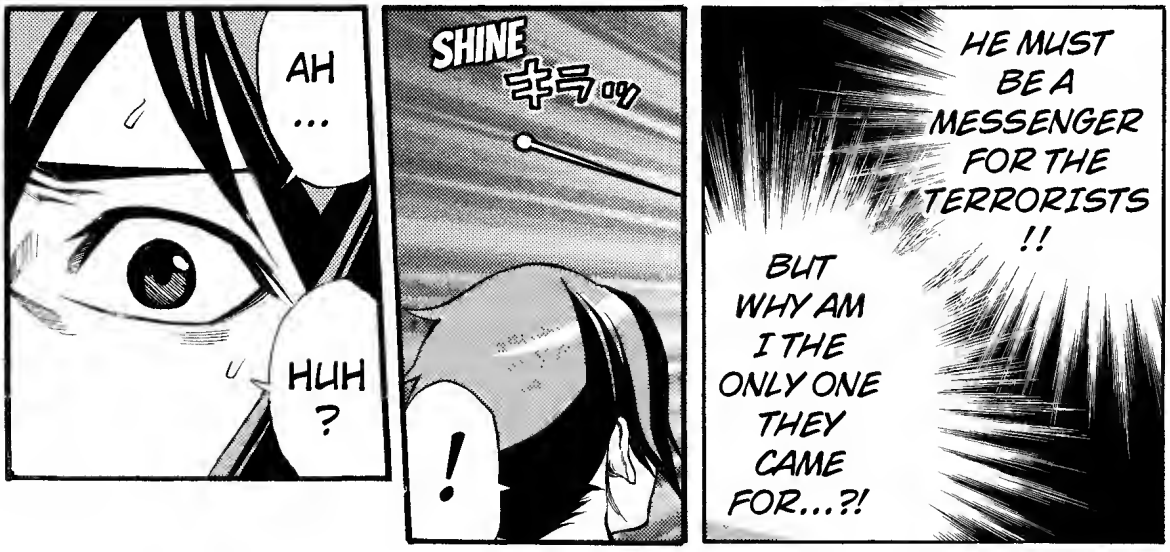
*CAN: "SWEET RED BEAN SOUP"


PSSHU
CHIM-PANZEES CAN'T KNOW ABOUT ME.
NINO IS A SECRET.
UGH, YUCK. RED BEAN SOUP ...?
SAWA-NOBORI-SAN... HEY... THERE'S ...
HUH ?
KA-
SPLAT
OH, MY!
AH ...
YOU... WAH... AAH...
THE GIRL AND... THE OLD LADY...


HM?
REALLY? YOU WANT OFF HERE AND NOW?
HUH ...
THEY'RE DEAD?!!
L-
LET ME OFF!! I CHANGED MY MIND!!
...
DON'T LET ME OFF!! DON'T!!
SQUIRM
SQUIRM
JUST KID-DING !!
AAAAA AAAAH !!!
THIS THING KILLS WITHOUT HESITA-TION ....
A-
ALL THAT STUFF TODAY ...
YOU WERE THE ONE THAT DID IT, WEREN'T YOU?!


TURN 3
I TOLD YOU THAT'S A SECRET, TRASH.
YOU'LL DIE IF YOU DON'T "SORT" THINGS OUT.
UWAA GAH?!


D-
DAMN IT...
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN ON THIS THING...!!
OF COURSE IT'S GONNA TAKE ME SOMEWHERE HORRIBLE ...!!!


HE MUST BE A MESSENGER FOR THE TERRORISTS !!
BUT WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE THEY CAME FOR...?!
SHINE
!
AH ...
HUH ?


SNORT!!
AH?
HM-MAH ...
... YUMMY ...


SIT UP
... HUH?
I FELL ASLEEP? WHEN DID I...
じゅる DROOL
DID I FALL INTO THE DARK SIDE ...?
...ANYWAY, WHAT WAS IT I WAS DOING AGAIN?


MY ROOM'S A MESS... DID THE OLD HAG COME IN WITHOUT PERMIS-SION...?
... AH?
I CAN'T REMEM-BER...
I THINK I WAS ASLEEP ABOUT 20 MINUTES ...



*REFERRING TO "HIS EXCELLENCY DEMON KOGURE" A JAPANESE TV PERSONALITY AND HEAVY METAL MUSICIAN WHO ASSUMES THE PERSONA OF A DEMON PRINCE FROM HELL


...
HE'S THE SAME AS ME...
ARE THERE OTHERS TOO...?
AAA AAH !!
NO WAY!!
WHAT IS THIS...? WHAT'S GOING ON...?
OVER THERE TOO...
LET ME OFF!!
I WANNA GO HOME AFTER ALL!!
VROOM!!

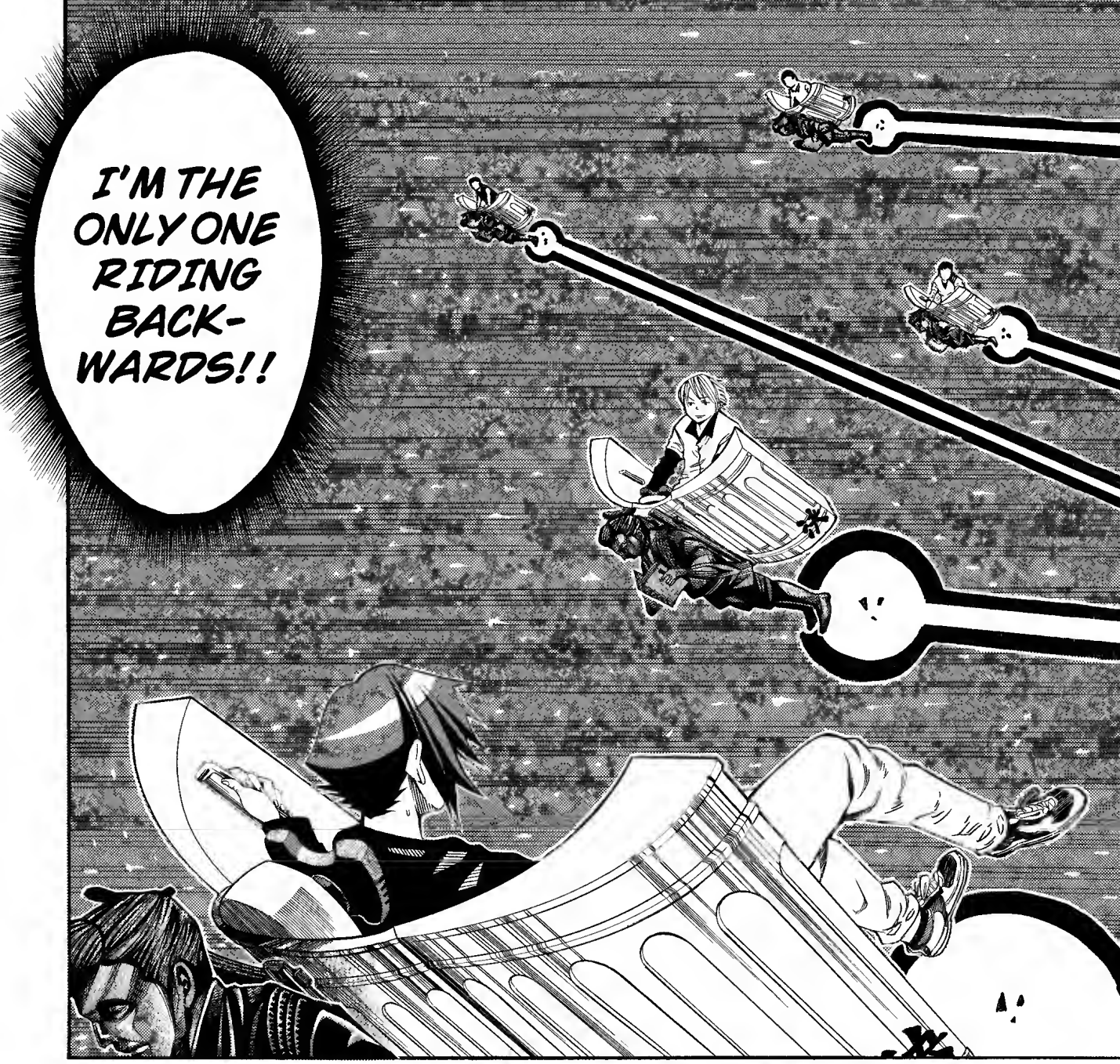

TRASH IS GATHERED IN THE TRASH CAN...
AND SORTED INTO "NECESSARY" AND "UNNECESSARY."
IT'S THE SAME FOR EVERYONE.
!
THEY'RE ALL TRASH WHO SKIPPED SCHOOL...
HA-
HANG ON.
WHAT ABOUT AOYAMA ...?!
AREN'T WE GONNA MEET THE GUYS WHO WERE AT SCHOOL?!


YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MEET THEM SOME-DAY.
IF YOU CAN BECOME ...
"NECES-SARY" TO THE WORLD.
THE "NECES-SARY" LIVE AND THE "UNNECES-SARY" DIE.
THAT'S THE KIND OF PLACE THE TRASH CAN IS.



CHAPTER 5: SINGING SKILLS




I'M THE ONLY ONE RIDING BACK-WARDS!!


YOU'RE BACK-WARDS, YOU KNOW.


I REALLY, REALLY, REALLY HOPE WE GET THERE SOON...
CRAP... HOW EMBAR-RASSING ...
EVERY-ONE KEEPS LOOKING AT ME ...


ちら GLANCE


GLANCE ちら


HEY, YOU'RE RIDING BACK-WARDS!
IF YOU DON'T RIDE FACING THIS WAY...
IT'S DANGER-OUS, RIGHT?
YOU COULD FALL...
AH ...
A GIRL...
HUH ...?
HEY, NOW! SERIOUSLY ...?!


HER PANTIES ARE SHOWING !!
WHY'S SHE DRESSED LIKE THAT?!
EH... UH... SO, YOU ...
NINO CAME FOR YOU TOO?
YEP. THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT HE WAS RUSHING ME, SO I LEFT IN MY PAJAMAS.
OH... I SEE ...
... YOU'RE... PRETTY CALM...
AREN'T YOU SCARED ?
I MEAN... IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?
SCARED ?
WHY ?
HUH?


IT'S EXCIT-ING.
ANY-WAY, WHICH SCHOOL DO YOU GO TO?
OH... UM...
WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL? SHE'S A LITTLE STRANGE ...
I'M YASUTO AKASHI, A 3RD YEAR AT HARIMAO HIGH SCHOOL.
AND YOU?
WHOOO OOOA!
VROOM
AGH?!
WHAT WAS THAT ...?!
AN EARTH-QUAKE?!
NO, WE'RE IN THE AIR ...
OH... OVER THERE ...
?!
WHAT IS THAT ?!
IT'S HUGE ...


VROOM
VROOM
A CUBE ...
A BOX ...?!
!
EVERY-ONE'S GETTING ...
SUCK-ED INTO IT... ?!!
AH?!
ドゴ
FOOM

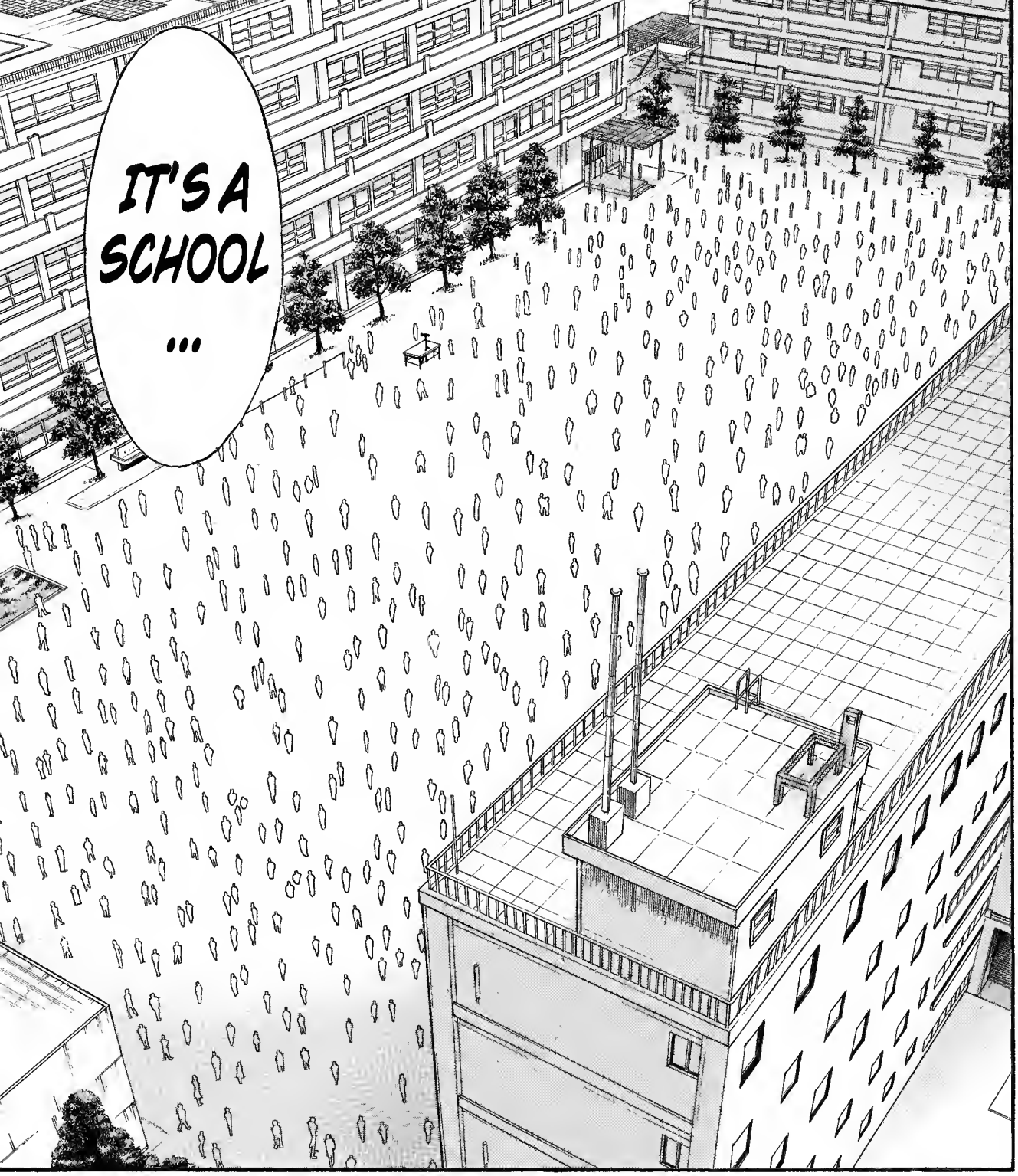


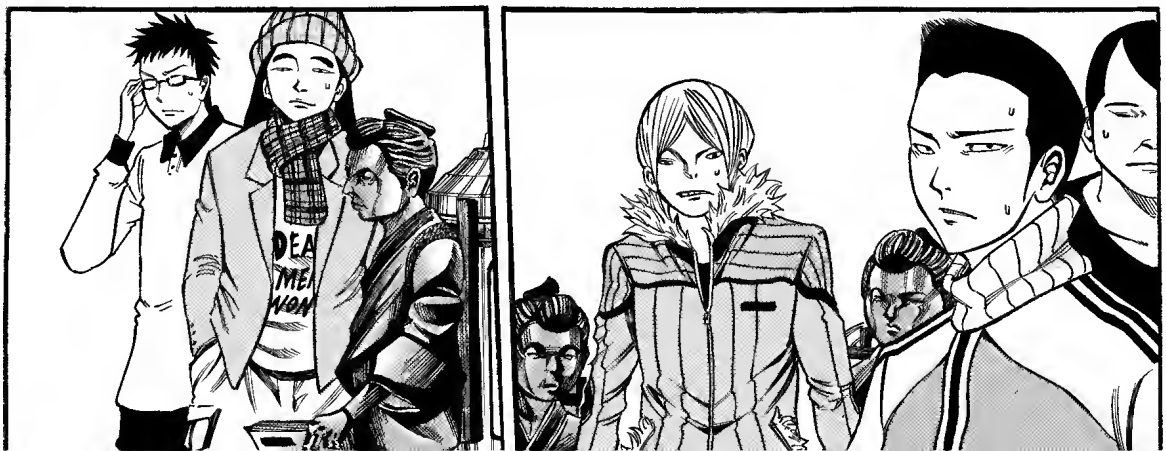
*THE JAPANESE WORD FOR TRASH CAN, "GOMI BAKO," IS LITERALLY "TRASH BOX"


KA-CLANK!!
ガシャーン!!
UH...


YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE RIDDEN PROPERLY, HUH?
ゼー WHEEZE
ブヒュー HUFF
I MEAN, THE FACE YOU'RE MAKING IS PRICE-LESS.
ゼー WHEEZE
ブヒュー HUFF


THERE WE GO.
HOP
ピョーン
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT...
AKA-SHI-KUN.
HUH...
AH ...?!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE ...?!


IT'S A SCHOOL ...




2ND YEAR AT HOSE HIGH SCHOOL, RUI MOCHI-DA.
THAT'S MY NAME.
HUH?
THERE'S A TON OF PEOPLE HERE...
NNMP
LIKE, WHAT? 1,000 PEOPLE OR SOME-THING?
WHAT HAP-PENS NOW ...?
NICE TO MEET YOU, AKASHI-KUN.
"RUI" IS WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR "TEARS."
OH... YEAH... NICE TO MEET YOU...
UH... "RUI," HUH?
THAT'S A NICE NAME.

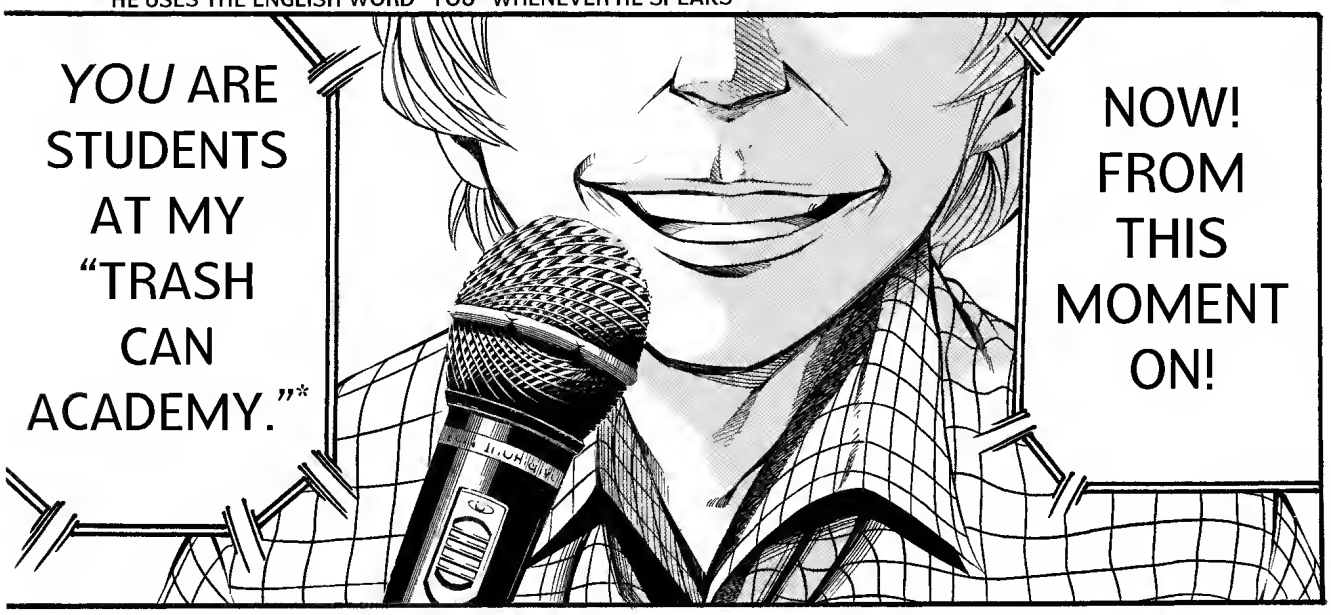




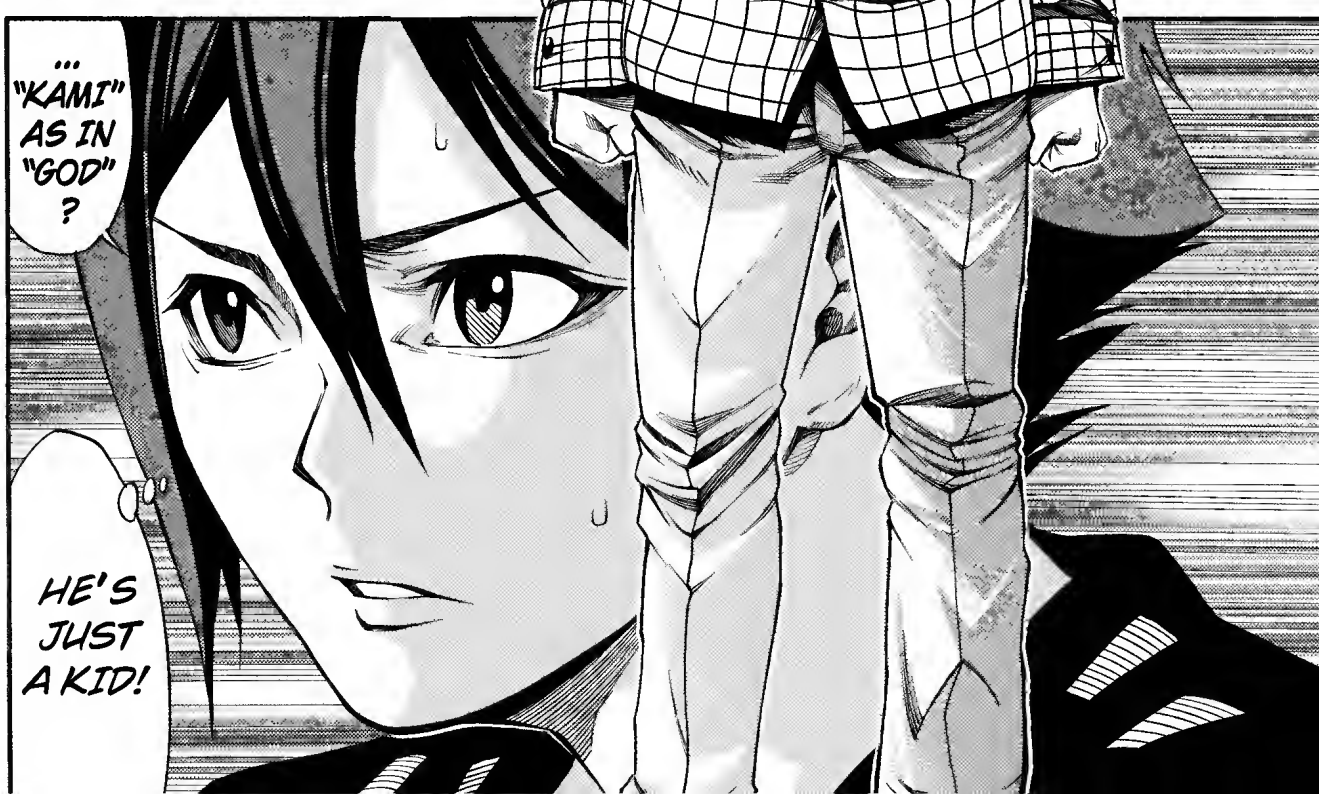




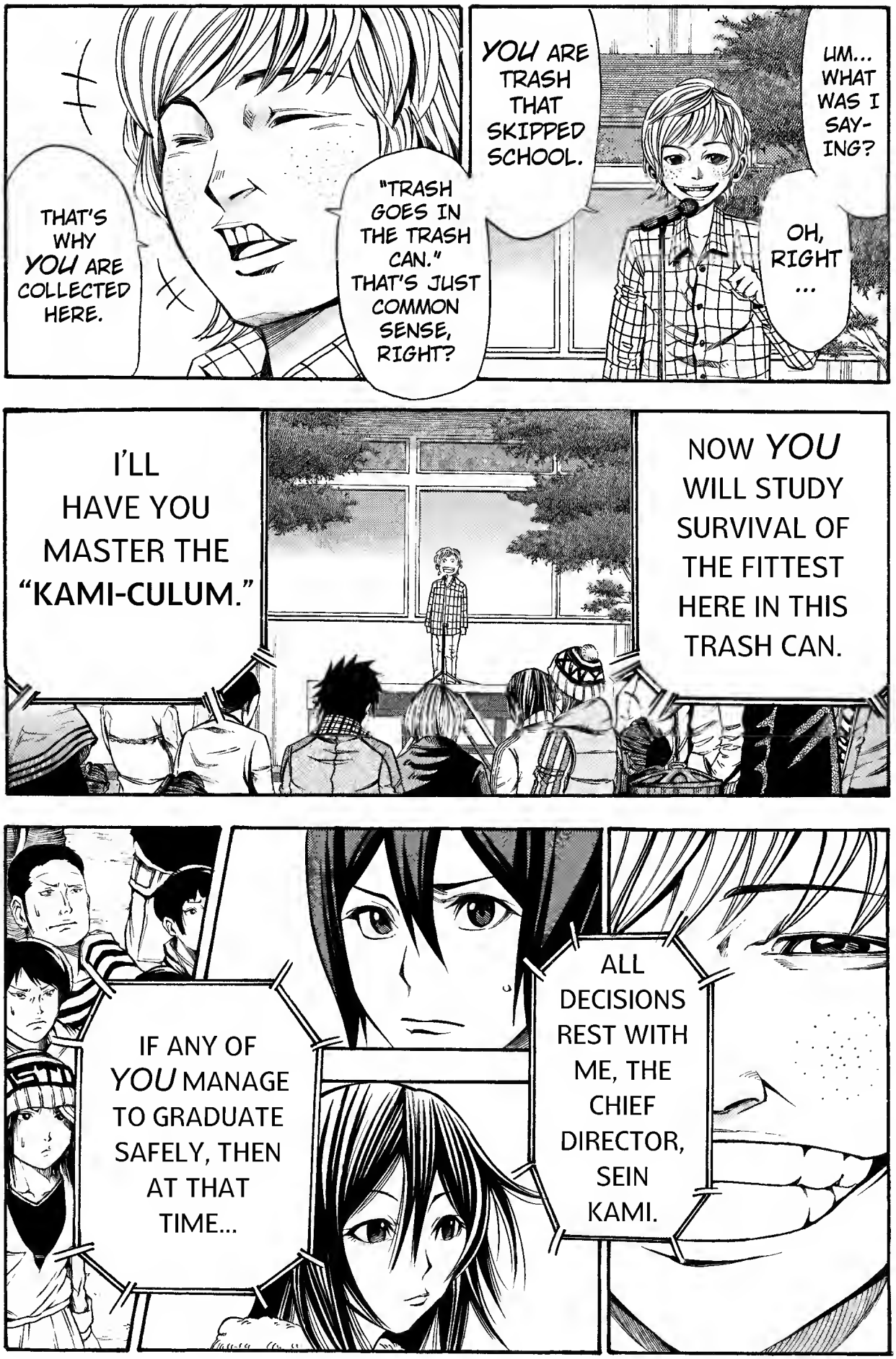
*HE USES THE ENGLISH WORD "YOU" WHENEVER HE SPEAKS





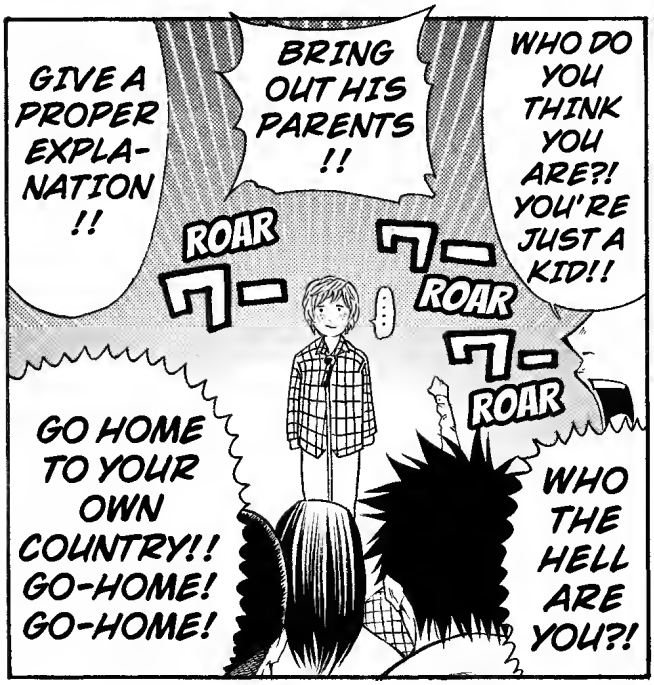


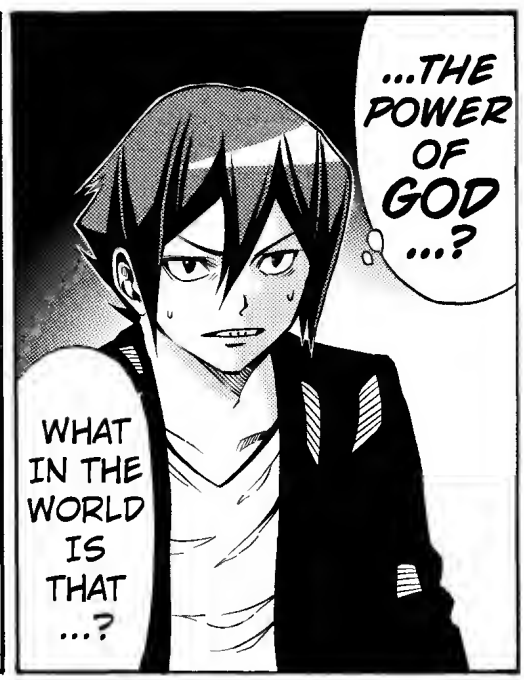
*THIS NAME IS PROBABLY DERIVED FROM THE NAME OF SEIN KAMYU (THANE CAMUS), AN AMERICAN-BORN TV PERSONALITY AND ACTOR IN JAPAN. THE WORD "KAMI" MEANS "GOD" IN JAPANESE.


UM... WHAT WAS I SAY-ING?
OH, RIGHT ...
YOU ARE TRASH THAT SKIPPED SCHOOL.
"TRASH GOES IN THE TRASH CAN." THAT'S JUST COMMON SENSE, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY YOU ARE COLLECTED HERE.
I'LL HAVE YOU MASTER THE "KAMI-CULUM."
NOW YOU WILL STUDY SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST HERE IN THIS TRASH CAN.
IF ANY OF YOU MANAGE TO GRADUATE SAFELY, THEN AT THAT TIME...
ALL DECISIONS REST WITH ME, THE CHIEF DIRECTOR, SEIN KAMI.


I'LL GIVE YA KAMI'S POWER ...
THE POWER OF GOD! ♡


HUH...?


GIVE A PROPER EXPLA-NATION !!
BRING OUT HIS PARENTS !!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?! YOU'RE JUST A KID!!
ROAR
ROAR
ROAR
GO HOME TO YOUR OWN COUNTRY!! GO-HOME! GO-HOME!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!


...THE POWER OF GOD ...?
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT ...?


HMM...? YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF GOD, HUH?
WELL, THEN ...
THE GUY WHO LOOKS PARTICULARLY DISSATISFIED.
COME OVER HERE!
IRK
HUH ...?!
SFF...
YOU.
YOU, COME UP ON THE STAGE!
HEY, HEY! YA MAKIN' FUN O' ME, YA BRAT?!
YA GONNA BATTLE ME UP THERE ON THE STAGE, HUH?!
HA HA! SWEET!
I'M GONNA SEND THIS LITTLE PUNK FLYIN' !!
HEY, THERE ...
HUH ?
WHAT'S THAT ...?

♫SIINGING

?!!


SCREECH
UGH-
BZT
ビリ
BZT
ビリ
ブルブル
BZZZZ
SKILLS


BAM


uAAAGH!!
AAA
AGH
AH


THIS IS THE POW-ER OF GOD ♪
LA LA ♫
SO ...
SHALL WE BEGIN ?
パチン! SNAP
DA DUM DA DUM
ドゥドゥドゥ
♫
DA DUM
ドゥドゥドゥ
DA DUM
?!
HEY! WHAT IS THAT ?!
AND NOW ...



*ON BALL: "KUSUDAMA," A DECORATIVE METAL BALL USED AT CELEBRATIONS USUALLY CONTAINING CONFETTI AND STREAMERS

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2...


TO BE CON-TINUED IN VOLUME 2...

***As the Gods Will* The Second Series volume 1**

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

STORY BY MUNEYUKI KANESHIRO, ART BY AKEJI FUJIMURA

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